

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



POVERTY REDUCTION FUND PROGRESS REPORT OF PRFIII AF

(January – December 2022)

(Draft)

PRF aims to develop and implement innovative community driven activities, enabling rural households to improve their livelihoods, well-being and nutrition through group-based activities.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADS	Agricultural Development Strategy
AFN	Agriculture for Nutrition
AL	Agricultural Livelihood
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CCT	Community Cash Transfer
CD	Community Development
CDD	Community Driven Development
CF	Community Facilitator
CFA	Community Force Account
CLEAR	Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience Project
CQS	Consultant Qualification Selection
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
Deepen CDD	Deepen Community-Driven Development
DNO	District Nutrition Officer
DPO	District Planning Office
DRDC	Department of Rural Development and Cooperative
DRM	Disaster Risks Management
DSEDP	District Social Economic Development Plan
DTEAP	Department of Technical Extension and Agro-Processing
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EM	Energy and Mine
ESF	Environment Safeguard Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist
FB	Facebook
FEE	Final External Evaluation
FIP	Family Investment Plan
FRM	Feedback and Resolution Mechanism
FNG	Farmer Nutrition Group
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GOL	Government of Lao
GPAR	Governance Public Administration Reform
HANSA	Health and Nutrition Services Access Project
HGNDP	Health Governance and Community-Driven Development Project
HH	Household(s)
HR	Human Resource
HNG	Home Nutrition Garden
IE	Internal Evaluation
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFR	Interim Un-Audited Financial Report
KBF	Kum Ban Facilitator
KDPs	Kum Ban Development Plans

KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LAK	Lao LAK (Lao Currency)
IC	Individual Consultant
IDA	International Development Agency
ISM	Implementation Support Mission
LBD	Luangprabang Buffalo Diary
LFN	Lao Farmer Network
LN	Livelihood and Nutrition
LWU	Lao Women Union
LYG	Livelihood Young Graduate
LYU	Lao Youth Union
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MIP	Micro Investment Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MNS	Minutes
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MTS	Multimedia & Technology Solution Sole Limited
NCD	Nutrition and Community Development
NCI	Nutrition Convergence Initiative
NGPES	National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
NCRDPE	National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPL	Non-Performance Loan
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NRDS	National Rural Development Strategy
NYG	Nutrition Young Graduate
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PDO	Project Development Objective
PG	Producer Group
PGG	Producer Group Grant
PRF	Poverty Reduction Fund
PRF I	Poverty Reduction Fund Project I (2003 – 2011)
PRF II	Poverty Reduction Fund Project II (2012 – 2016)
PRF III	Poverty Reduction Fund Project III (2017 – 2019)
PRF III AF	Poverty Reduction Fund Project III Additional Financing (2020-2024)
POM	Project Operational Manual
PPSD	Project Procurement Strategy Development
PPM	Participatory Planning Manual
PM	Prime Minister
PMT	Project Management Team

QC	Quality Control
QAA	Quality Assurance Advisor
RMG	Road Maintenance Group
RRPM	Reduction Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project
SDA	Sub-Project Damage Assessment
SBCC	Social Behavior Community Change
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SPs	Sub-projects
#SP	Number of sub-projects
SWSSHP	Scaling-up Water-supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Project
TOT	Training of Trainers
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VDP	Village Development Plan
VFRC	Village Feedback and Resolution Committee
VO	Village Organization
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
VIT	Village Implementation Team
VMC	Village Multipurpose Center/ Village Mediation Committee
VSMC	Village SHG Management Committee
WB	World Bank
XDR	Special Drawing Rights
YG	Young Graduates

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the progress achieved and challenges faced against the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) from January 2020 to December 2022 that is also used for annual progress report 2022, it is an important corrective and adaptive management tool, it would be a good opportunity of the team to identify and resolve key critical issues that may be impacted the implementation of PRF as measurement at the mid-term point. It is important to utilize lessons learnt to improve the implementation in the second half of the project and ensure the sustainability and provide high benefit to target beneficiaries.

The overall objective of the MTR is to assess if the project is on track to achieve its PDO and if there is a need to restructure/change activities/processes to adjust to current implementation achievements and new circumstances. The progress of work against PDO and project development goals can be highlighted as below:

According to the aide-memoire of the mission in June 2022, the project remains on track to achieve its Project Development Objective (PDO) by the current closing date of June 30, 2024 and the progress made towards the PDO was rated as satisfactory. There is a bit different between project objective of PRFIII and PRFIIAF, as one of PRFIII is to “Improve the access to and the utilization of basic infrastructure and services for poor communities in a sustainable manner” which is the basic infrastructure improvement oriented. For PRFIIAF is to “To improve access to prioritized basic services, as well as to support the production and consumption of nutritious foods in the Project’s targeted poor communities”, which focuses on Livelihood activities (production) links nutrition. Therefore, there are some changes and adaptations of some indicators to reflect the reality of work, including the direct project beneficiaries, percent of reduction in travel time from agricultural production access to village center, kilogram of animal meat, % of sub-projects meeting technical quality standard, etc. (Detail in annex1). Then we can highpoint of progress work in each component.

Component1 : Community Development Sub-Grants : During the period of 2020-2024, in the project operation manual mentioned that at least 75% of total villages (481 villages) would receive at one least sub-project or at least 361 sub-projects should be implemented in 361 villages. During the mission in early June 2022, the PRF team was requested to revise the percentage of sup-project beneficiaries from 75% of total target villages to 100% in the 2nd batch village because of the capacity of the remaining budget for this activity (Component1). However, only one criterion is still existing in the selection is “No physical resettlement/consolidation of other villages to this village in the last and the next 4 years” as the basic criteria that has been applied in PRF for many years, and to ensure the social and environmental safeguard policy. So, in the 2nd Batch village at least 234 SPs should be implemented in all target villages.

Progress of work: In the 1st batch village, there are 173 SPs to be implemented in 173 out of 231 villages (2020-2022), the basic infrastructure would support the agricultural productivity as to reflect the project objective is to improve access to prioritized basic services, as well as to support the production and consumption of nutritious foods, thus there are 96 SPs are agriculture road access, 48 SPs about agricultural supporting, including irrigation systems, weir renovation, barbed wire fence; and lastly 29 SPs are about water supply included gravity fed-system rehabilitation, and water

tank/reservoir construction which would support the livelihood and nutrition activities. The CFA had been applied for sub-project implementation, where a total of LAK 24.55 billion was allocated for sub-project construction.

By the end of December 2022, a total of 172 out of 173 SPs (99.42%) have been implemented and most of them have been completed, while only 1 SP is in processing to implement (as the impact of disaster, it was changed priority from irrigation channel rehabilitation replaced the supporting of barbed wired fence in Namor district, Oudomxay province). There are some issues caused the delay of project implementation, one is about the Covid-19 pandemic, following with the high inflation rate that the cost that proposed for NOL was not appropriate with situation, thus, it took time to revise, and last one is about natural disaster in the northern part causing many SPs could not implement while few SPs under PRF also impacted. Despite, these challenges, the PRF team incorporate with local authority to find appropriate solution and confirm that all SPs will be complete and provide positive for all beneficiaries by the end of December 2022. For the 2nd batch village at least 238 SPs planned to implement, to ensure that the construction can complete by rainy season of 2023, the VDP, and survey design should complete by March 2023, and construction should start during March-June 2023 for the less of time the team can focus on operation and maintenance training and handing over to community and district concerned sectors.

Livelihood and Nutrition Development

Under the livelihood activities, the project has established 972 SHG (target 1,145 SHGs) in the 1st batch villages (only 84.89% by comparing to the target). These SHGs have mobilized 12,146 members (one member represents one household), out of which 11,182 members are women (which is 92.06% of total members), 7,303 members from ethnic households (which is 60.12% of total households), and 7,009 members are from poor and poorest households (which is 57.70% of total households). The SHG is regarded as institution of poor households, where all members can share their social issues and production experiences. The establishment of SHGs aims to provide an opportunity for the poor community (women and ethnicity) to access to the loan, instead of taken loan from the bank and other sources, as following objectives:

- ✓ Promote unity, collective action, group cohesion and taking decision jointly, where at least one time per month that they conduct a meeting.
- ✓ Sensitive towards fellow members, help each other and solve problems collectively, as discuss among members to support the poorer person first.
- ✓ Promote financial discipline such as regular saving, inter-lending and on time repayment, PRF provided seed grant for the 1st Batch village LAK14.47 Billion and member saving LAK 3.19 Billion towards their regular savings. Where member can take loan for livelihood and for emergency case.
- ✓ Promote economic independence and ensure improvement in living conditions, where members can get income and sustainable livelihood activities.
- ✓ Reducing poverty through collective endeavors, through stable income source and food security.

The project has successfully formed 229 VSMCs comprising 1,355 members (updated data in 2022), out of which 1,083 members are women (which is 80% of total VSMC members and is 15% higher

than the target i.e., 65%). The VSMC has 794 members who are from ethnic groups, which is 58.64% of total VSMC members. These VSMC members are key community resource persons to handle the work after ending PRF, thus, those people are representative of villagers who have received modular training on SHG and VSMC functioning through systematic training modules through project staff in the classroom and field demonstrations.

The income generation activities promoted under the PRF III AF are pig raising, chicken raising, goat rearing, fish farming, duck raising, weaving and handicrafts, corn cultivation, vegetable production, banana farming, fruit production, ginger cultivation, and petty trading.

Notice: By the end of 2022, PRF started to extend the livelihood's activity to second batch village with following activities: the village orientation meeting, forming SHG, module training, etc. the detail will mention in section 4.1.

The project has established 29 Producers Groups (PG) against the target of 25 Producers Groups (PG) planned for 2022. The 15 PGs are formed in Namor and La districts of Oudomxay province and 14 PGs in Kham district, Xiengkhouang province. The project has provided training on group management, business management, and technical training on PG promoted activities such as weaving and handicraft, pig raising, chicken raising, goat rearing, to all the PG members.

Farmer Nutrition Groups (FNGs), The project has established 249 Farmers Nutrition Groups (FNG) in 231 villages comprising 18,689 FNG members (10 November 2022). Out of which, 10,865 FNG members are active members and 7,824 FNG members are from the previous project. Among the total FNG members, there are direct and indirect beneficiaries. Among the active members, there are 6,242 direct beneficiaries, which include 1,585 pregnant women, 1009 lactating mothers, and 3,648 children aged 6 to 23 months. There are 4,623 FNG members, who are indirect beneficiaries, which include 1,022 children in the age group of 0 to 5 months, whereas 3,601 mothers have children in the age group of 6 to 23 months. As said, aligns with project objective. There are 1408 FNG members out of 8557 loan takers (SHGs) who have accessed quantum of loan to invest in diversified food production and consumption to move towards diet diversity.

Home Nutrition Garden (HNG), Base to the agreement with the Lao Farmer Network (LFN). The training on HNG to promote maternal and child nutrition was conducted for the 3 village model farmers in 231 villages and for DNOs, YGs, and DAFO staff in 12 districts in 4 target Provinces such as Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh and Xiengkhouang Province. And the several follow up at the villages level has been conducted in each village.

Multi-media Peer Learning (MMPL), Video creation is one of the essential supporting activities to lead to behavior change for FNG members and the community. As of June 2022, the training on video creation has completely been conducted in 231 villages participated by 723 people, 684 females. The village volunteer trainees will help to do a village-led video production process to capture and disseminate success stories related to nutrition and local villagers' model families on premix cooking for children and home nutrition gardening. In addition, the produced Videos will be adapted with culturally appropriate ways of storytelling, and local languages.

The Videos produced will be shown in the FNG's meeting weekly which all members can learn and discuss the story with each other. Furthermore, A video platform of the success stories will be developed, uploaded, and disseminated through WhatsApp, Facebook, Video, or downloadable to the cloud or an SD card).

Goat Dairy, PRF has been partnering with Laos Buffalo Dairy (LBD) – piloting goat dairy activity “MILK-COOK- EAT” in Xieng Khouang and Oudomxay provinces across 5 villages and 17 households enrolled in farmer nutrition groups. The objective of this pilot was to explore the potential of milking indigenous goats for local household food consumption, in particular to enrich child porridges for children 6-23months old. Innovative trials involved research (milking trends, analysis of nutrients and lactose, etc.), the development of a field manual, training tools, recipes and tasting sessions, and information, education and communication (IEC) tools. The trainings also covered aspects of improved animal husbandry and results from an analysis on household investment cost. Strong focus was placed that goat milk is sourced in a sustainable and cost-effective manner from animals already owned by households. No new breeds and dairy goats were enrolled in this pilot.

Nutrition Convergence Meeting on the WB multi-sector nutrition convergence (MSNCA). During 2020-2022, PRF attended different meetings led by MPI (quarterly, six-month, and annual meetings) under the Nutrition Convergence, where all convergence project task teams (RRPM, HGNDP/HANSA, SWSSH, and PRF), PMUs, and MPI Coordinators update the implementation status of each project. Since there are some data that we would get from mid-term evaluation under convergence, the PRF team will follow up closely with the convergence team to get the results.

Environmental and Social Safeguards: During the period of 2020-2022, the monitoring of environmental and social safeguards remains satisfactory as confirmed by different missions carried during the implementation of AF, since there is no serious issue occurred during this period. The training on Environmental and Social Safeguards has been provided for PRF staff as well as the Environmental and Social Safeguards documents including Safeguard Checklist, DRM, and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance Certificates for all SPs, identifying potential issues and seeking further details as required. In addition, to ensure the proper safety of work, the PRF also coordinated and worked closely with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) on the process for obtaining a UXO clearance certificate even if the subprojects are small and focusing on rehabilitating and improving existing infrastructures for all 4 provinces.

For example, the review of the 173 SPs' construction under the PRF AF funded on the ESS and QAA has been taken action to ensure that all sub-projects comply with the guidelines stated in the Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework (ESMF) and all sub-projects have been reviewed through the review of the list of sub-projects vis-à-vis the Safeguard Checklist and results of discussion to ensure the safeness of each type of sub-projects, finding issues during reviewing documents, mitigation measurement, and planning for action to cope with issues found.

In addition, in the PRF III AF, the root causes analysis and safeguard corrective action plan (RCA/SCAP) to help prevent road accidents by PRF staff including YGs will also be further discussed for developing a road safety manual to share with all PRF staff and target community during travel time to support activity at community level.

Feedback Resolution Mechanism or Grievance System: This system had been developed in the PRF's database system, which aims to track all requests/ complaints and assessing the extent to which

progress is being made to resolve them. The MIS includes appropriate features for entering, tracking and monitoring feedback. Evaluation refers to the analysis of feedback data so that policy and/ or process changes can be made to minimize problematic issues in the future. Analyzing feedback data helps management to re-orient project processes to increase effectiveness. To ensure that local staff and community understand the importance of information and data of feedback provided by beneficiaries, the concerned team at PRF conducted different pieces of training for key staff at different levels and made sure they enter data into the system because there is no a key staff to respond for this work, thus it is difficulty to assign the work other staff that they already have a workload to fulfill their task (Detail in section 2.2.18).

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI): During 2020-2022, the gender aspect has been mainstreamed in all PRF's activities, as of December 2022, the number of women and the ethnic people involved in the project activities is remarkably increased. For example, for the project staffing, For only PRFIIAF, a total of 199 positions of PRF staff (25 national staff, 4 provincial staff, 40 district staff, and 130 YGs), a number of 84 female staff reached 42.21 %, which is higher than the target of 22.21% (target 30%), while 76 ethnic group staffs show 38.19 % of the total staff, the high proportion of female staff from YGs, somehow, to encourage high number of women to work at rural areas is good, however, the rural road in mountainous areas seems to be difficult for traveling for working with high risk of traveling, thus, we can reconsider the appropriate solution and ensure the safeness of working, particularly, for the YG female. **At the community level**, 80% of VSMC members (1,083) are women out of 1,355 VSMC members against the target of 65%. These VSMC members are leading the SHG programs in their villages. In addition, over 51.30 % of women are involved in VIT which is higher than the target (40%), over 93% of women are involved in decision making of sub-project selection, 94% of loan takers are women, etc.

Training and Capacity Building: which is considered to be a key sustainable aspect of PRF's activities, where the PRF capacity building efforts focus on strengthening the capacity of PRF functionaries at all levels to better implement PRF activities, particularly, the YGs who work closely with villagers. Equally important, by providing technical support to villagers over the period 2020-2022. Especially, PRF aspires to empower communities by training them to assess their own needs, to discuss them with district authorities and to implement them, as well as to supervise the construction of public infrastructure sub-projects through CFA approach, implement the livelihood through technical training for animal raising and cropping according to potential of and nutrition activities.

During 2020-2022, several trainings had been provided for PRF staff at different levels including staff training which concerns Village Planning, Engineering, Livelihood, Nutrition, Finance & procurement, and Monitoring and Evaluation works. In addition, training on Environmental and Social Safeguard including DRM had also been conducted to support the community in the sub-project implementation. The outcomes of each training can be shown in the progress of work related to key components, for example: in the 1st Batch village there is 231 VDPs that already in place, in which 173 SPs where 162 skilled labours that received training at the professional school and those people become community resource person in terms of construction that create income for their community and job opportunity for the poor. There are 1,035 VITs (531 are female or 51.30%) those people received different training and following up the work during project implementation.

Furthermore, there are 229 VSMCs in 229 villages had established with 1,354 members who received different training all modules of SHGs and multiple modules on livelihood activities including the group management, bookkeeping, and finance management. By the end of 2022, the VSMC capacity

assessment had been carried out, to assess whether those VSMC can manage the work without supporting by YGs and project staff, in which 100 VSMC or 43.67% is excellence and very good performance, 83 VSNC or 36.26% is good, while there are 46 VSMC (20.09%) are considered to be neutral and weak performance, in this case, we proposed the district team to get back and recheck activities of those VSMC as to find appropriate mechanism to strengthen them before moving to 2nd batch village. The external evaluation of the livelihood activity will be carried out before MTR that would provide lessons learnt that would propose for the new villages.

Financial Status: This is important to follow up the workplan with budget allocation since the starting of PRFIIAF up to December 2022, in overall, during the period of PRFIIAF, the project's FM performance remains Satisfactory. The project complied with the financial reporting and audit requirements of the World Bank. By December 2022, the project complied with the financial reporting and audit requirements of the World Bank. The interim Financial Reports (IFRs) were submitted on time and were of acceptable quality. The disbursement ratio reached 99% for the IDA credit 5827-LA equivalent to 100% due to the conversion exchange rate from XDR to US\$. For IDA Credit 65060 the disbursement ratio reached 44 % of the total budget PRF III AF. During January-December 2022, PRF has spent US\$ 6,049,463 for IDA65060 including US\$ 2,240,850 to support sub-projects and village planning (76%). US\$ 441,440 was disbursed for the capacity building (85%). US\$ 776,669 was used for project management activities (100%) and US\$ 2,477,504 supported Livelihood and Nutrition activities (62%).

Procurement: The procurement team performed good progress of work; the project's procurement performance of the project remains Satisfactory. The PRF procurement unit has so far completed the procurement of 177 packages (80.45%) out of a total of 220 packages. The mission in June 2022 noted that: (1) the procurement unit conducted a procurement training program for PRF District Procurement Assistants to strengthen and enhance the knowledge of procurement, from 14-18 February 2022, (2) PRF had completed the preparation of the Sub-Project Procurement Plan under the IDA fund (173 sub-projects) and (3) PRF organized procurement training by district procurement assistants for Village Procurement Team before starting the procurement process at sub-project level.

Monitoring and Evaluation System: There are 3 key works of PRF's M&E System, 1) the MIS/database to collect data of project activities; 2) Reporting System; and 3) Evaluation and Learning. The system development of MIS was based on the project's activities in each component, based on the better improvement of the MIS PRF. More various data has fruitfully been inserted into the MIS system and several on-training sessions on data entry in the MIS have been conducted by PRF, which is easily accessible on YouTube. The PRF staff including provincial, district, and village levels have been trained and strengthened their capacity for data auditing and validation, which is very important to ensure data quality. In addition, for further strengthening of PRF staff's capacity building, the usage of Kobo Toolbox and PowerBI was conducted (in July 2022) as well as google form which helps to understand data collection requirements for specific qualitative evaluations as such evaluation of skills adoption. This might apply to some in-house evaluations or data collection on project capacity-building evaluations, and other impact evaluations.

Fundamental Indicators: As confirmed by the mission in 2022, even, the project remains on track to achieve its Project Development Objective (PDO) by the current closing date of June 30, 2024, and the progress toward the PDO was rated as satisfactory. Due to the delay of project activity in the 2nd batch village, it is proposed to extend the closing period to December 2024 because it would take

more time to do the project activity and follow up on the outcomes before handing them over to the local authority.

In addition, there are few indicators had been revised and updated. Particularly the PDO indicator that we adjusted the final target to beneficiaries at 950,000 people (original 876,700) because new district and new villages added in AF period, while the percent reduction in travel time from agricultural production areas to villages' centres due to road improvements replace the reduction time from village to kumban center. Indicators related to health, water supply, and school will not be tracked because those activities are not supported in AF. About the kilogram of meat, since the target was overly ambitious (5.4 million KG) and should probably be reduced. It is difficult to set a target as it is not known in advance if PGs will be undertaking a livestock activity, this would propose for 3 million KG based on the trend of animal raising during 2020-2022. One intermediate indicator about the Percentage of women selected for the Road Maintenance Groups earning an income out of the number of poor households in targeted villages, as the project additional financing is not financing any Road Maintenance Group (communities are just trained for O&M), thus, it is impossible to get right data for this indicator, it is thus, to be discussed during the MTR.

There are many indicators that used accumulated data from PRFII and PRFIII that would be better to set up for AF's indicators because the activities are differences. Thus, for the new project, we propose to set up new indicators for each component with clear definition, responsible person, data source, and data collection methodology which would be easier for key staff to collect data.

By the end of 2021 and early 2022, the Final External Evaluation (FEE) of the Poverty Reduction Fund III in 2021, the success of the FEE has highlighted many advantages of lessons learned and experiences from the previous PRF's implementation. The result has informed on General Assessment, Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability as well as converging of the Recommendations and Lessons Learned. This study confirmed that the project is highly relevant in general and in particular to context through all relevant GoL strategies in effect. It is also relevant to quality of design since the design is effective in implementing GoL strategies and international aid context. The sustainability of PRF as a GoL entity, however, although facilitated by proven modalities and procedures and by experienced staff, will still depend on financing from non-GoL sources which may exhaust.

In 2022, the technical assessment and outcomes survey of PRF had been conducted, the main objective of the assignment is to measure the (i) technical quality and sustainability and (ii) the outcomes of the completed sub-projects between 2016 and 2021, which focused on five sub-project categories: irrigation, roads, gravity-fed water supply, primary schools and dispensaries, Overall, **50% of the sub-projects were assessed as Good with 43% assessed as Fair** and only a small 7% were Poor. Therefore, the indicator that percent of sub-projects meeting technical quality standards this counted at 93% (against target 85%). Of the 84 sub-projects, only 7 (8%) were not in operable condition. All the road and building sub-projects are 100% in full-use.

The assessment of beneficiaries satisfactory with the participatory planning process of PRFIII, the general objective of the study is to evaluate beneficiaries' satisfaction with the project activities (paying attention to women beneficiaries). The evaluation will cover beneficiaries' satisfaction with: (i) participatory planning; (ii) technical assistance and capacity building provided during implementation and supervision (both

for infrastructure and livelihoods); (iii) results of activities (infrastructure and livelihoods); and (iv) grievances mechanism, which expected to present the first draft report during MTR period.

Work plan 2023-2024

- Working in the 2nd Batch village at least 234 villages, including village planning, survey design, social and environmental safeguards, disaster risk management, sub-project construction, and operation and maintenance. Then, we will consider the actual beneficiaries based on number of complete constructions.
- **For the Livelihood:** Continue following the progress of work in the 1st batch village together with supporting activities in 2nd batch village including the activities of SHG, PGs, and performance evaluation of each activity. To set up the PGs to reach the target of 100 PGs with performance progress evaluation.
- For the nutrition activity in the 1st village continue following up the activities related to behavior change through cooking session, home garden visiting, and video watching. For the 2nd batch village established 283 FNGs in 238 villages and will focus on the activities under FNGs based on lessons learnt from the first half of the project.
- PRF continues coordinating with all convergence projects, particularly, the MIS data sharing, planning integration, SBCC, etc. through the meeting and joining working at national, provincial, and district levels. Including the key area to further harmonize interventions at the community level, which is the alignment of communication and behavior change managed between PRF and other convergence projects.
- Project outcomes evaluation that would be used for ICR that would be useful for the new project.
- Prepare for the next steps of the Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience Program (CLEAR) and develop plans for its implementation approach and strategy, completion of all documents that would be used including the POM, PAD, Safeguards, Project Activities, System, and staffing origination and recruitment.

CHAPTER I: PROJECT BACKGROUND

PRF III AF, the Project has been built on the successful experience of the PRF II and PRF III Phases. It is proposed to be a transition period from nature of PRF that would link to the new project. The proposed Additional Financing (AF) Credit scaled up impacts of PRFIII and supported the following: (a) an additional cycle of community development subgrants, with a focus on livelihood and nutrition-sensitive agriculture infrastructure; (b) expansion of support for the establishment and sustainability of new self-help and producer groups in Oudomxay, Phongsaly and Xiengkhuang provinces and coverage of additional districts in Houaphan province; (c) renewed engagement and investment in activities to improve nutrition outcomes for infants and young children in the four provinces targeted for the World Bank's "nutrition convergence" approach in Lao PDR. Thus, over two years period, there are several activities had been implementedA and progressed, even, for PRF itself and for other Convergence Projects.

Under AF, the project development objective (PDO) remains relevant. However, to capture the increased emphasis on livelihood and nutritional outcomes, The Project's objective has been revised to, "improve access to community prioritized basic services, as well as to support the production and consumption of nutritious foods in the Project's targeted poor communities" (Page 32, PAD3134).

In 4 northern Provinces, The PRF III AF will achieve the new livelihood and nutrition elements of the revised objective by i) providing capacity-building assistance to form, nurture, and strengthen Self Help Groups (SHG) and Producers' Groups (PG); giving seed capital, technical assistance, to engage them in nutrition-sensitive agriculture which will improve the production and productivity of crops, livestock, and non-farm activities for household consumption and sale to improve their livelihood and income; and ii) forming and strengthening groups of pregnant women and mothers with children under 2 years old to grow diverse and nutritious foods in their gardens, year-round, and to process and cook food for their own and their children's consumption.

Fund Sources

The PRF III AF has a total envelope of US\$ 22,500,000 over a 4 year-implementation (2020-2023). While the main implementation period will be through the end of 2023, some financial work/audits will continue until mid-2024. The budget has been allocated in 4 key components as table below:

Table 1: Total budgets for PRFIII Additional Financing (US\$)

Source of Fund	By Component
International Development Association (IDA), credit	
Component1: Community Development (28%)	6,260,000
Component2: Local and Community Development Capacity Building (5%)	1,210,000
Components3: Project Management (13%)	2,900,000
Component4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development (54%)	12,130,000
Total (US\$)	22,500,000

Source: PRF Financial and Administration Division

Note: At the community level there is community contribution cost that we counted in kind like the material and labour contribution for the CFA work and others.

The project's structure consists of four components, including Component 1: Community Development Sub-Grants, CFA approach will be applied to all sub-projects under donors' funding (28%); Component 2: Local and Community Development Capacity Building (5%); Component 3: Project Management (13%); and Component 4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development (54%) which are key project activities for this period.

The selection of AF target locations was prepared by each target district. As a principle, adjustments were made, so the AF could continue to operate in the same geographical areas (10 of the 12 districts to be targeted AF were covered by PRFIII). This built on the institutional capacity already established, and further developed the capacity of local communities and government authorities to collaborate for local socio-economic development in partnership.

For the selection of targeted villages of PRF III AF, the villages were selected based on one criterion – they are in the 12 nutrition convergence districts and not covered by the AFN project, there is a total of 481 villages (the actual number is 465 villages) which will operate activities in two phases, one at the beginning and the second one after the second evaluation mid-line survey.

For the total villages that will receive sub-project, funding only one time in the period of AF, there are 361 out of 481 villages¹ (75%), the criteria of selection will base on the followings:

1. Percentage of poor households
2. No physical resettlement/consolidation of other villages to this village in the last and the next 4 years.

Adjustment of AF: During the donor supervision mission in early June 2022, the PRF team requested to revise the percentage of sub-project beneficiaries from 75% of total target villages to 100% because of the capacity of the remaining budget for this activity (Component1). The mission agreed to consider adjusting the requirement in Project Operation Manual based on the remaining budget and the justification from PRF. However, one criteria still exists in the selection is “No physical resettlement/consolidation of other villages to this village in the last and the next 4 years”. The adjustment will be active in 2nd batch village.

Remark: The selection process of AF might different from previous PRFs (2003-2019) that focused only the poor and poorest villages for project supporting, while many targeted villages in AF are not poor as the project focused on livelihood and nutrition aspects. Thus, the propose for new project should identify different status of villages that we can provide appropriate support and links to PDOs.

The preparation of a new project named “Community Livelihood Enhancement And Resilience or CLEAR” will base on the lessons learned from previous PRF and also other development partners, which will focus on the poor community in remote areas of Lao PDR. The design of the CLEAR project is aligned with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9th NSEDP, 2021-2025) and the World Bank's new Country Partnership Framework. The proposed new project will contribute to achieving the objectives of the 20-year Vision (2021-2040), 10-year Strategy (2021-2030), as well as the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) to 2025 and the Vision to 2030. While this new project is already included in the proposed IDA20 Lending pipeline, a formal request letter for the

¹The number of villages may change, depending on the district development plan (village consolidation or other). For 2021, the actual number has 231 out of 469 villages (not 481), the number of villages was reduced due to the consolidation of village administration, Hydro Power Construction.

specific operation is expected to be provided by the Ministry of Finance as soon as possible. By the end of 2022, there are 6 targeted provinces were selected by using data available

- ✓ World Bank (2020) = Lao People's Democratic Republic Poverty Assessment 2020: Catching Up and Falling Behind for multidimensional poverty indicator
- ✓ LECS 6 (2018/2019) = Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 6, 2018/2019 for livelihood source and basic local infrastructure indicators
- ✓ LSIS II (2017) = Lao Social Indicator Survey II, 2017 for nutrition indicator
- ✓ Landslide hazard: thinkhazard.org database by GFDRR

Second, within the selected provinces, it will identify a long list of eligible districts using Decree 348/PMT scoring; 2-3 of these will be selected based on additional data (e.g., natural disasters), operational considerations and population size, that would be very related to new project development objectives and respond to the needs of poor community.

CHAPTER II: ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST RESULTS FRAMEWORK

2.1 Overall Progress of work of Component 1

During 2020-2022, PRF had completed all remaining activities of PRFIII, particularly the extension period under SDC financing and Government co-financing in the 6 provinces uncovered by AF (Luangnamtha, Luangprabang, Savannakhet, Saravan, Sekong, and Attapeu), as already mentioned in the Semi- Annual Report 2022.

The sub-project implementation of AF in the 1st batch village could not complete as the plan, due to an unexpected situation as the COVID-19 outbreaks caused the delay of the construction of all 173 SPs. By the end of December 2022, a total of 172 out of 173 SPs (99.42%) have been implemented and most of them have been completed, while only 1 SP is in processing to implement (as the impact of disaster, it was changed priority from irrigation channel rehabilitation replaced the supporting of barbed wired fence in Namor district, Oudomxay province). In comparison with previous PRFs, it seems that the construction progress is behind schedule, there are many reasons caused the delay of this work, besides the impact of COVID-19, several other reasons caused the delay of construction in 2022, one issue is the high inflation after contract signing that material providers could not proceed with the work at the NOL cost, which requested to adapt based on the actual cost, on the other hand, some work related to irrigation channel cannot implement in the rainy season thus community proposed to do it later, etc. In addition, the natural disaster that occurred in August 2022 also impacted to the construction work in some villages and caused changes in some priorities. As per the commitment of PRF and local authorities, all the construction works will be completed by the mid-term review in early 2022.

In addition, all sub-projects are related to village road rehabilitation, small bridges, irrigation systems, and the roof of agricultural markets which would support the livelihood and nutrition activities, with a total cost of LAK 24.4 billion and community contribution LAN 2.57 billion.

Based on the experience of the implementation in the 1st Batch village, the implement of 2nd Batch village should be prepared in advance and avoid the implementation period in rainy season, thus, PRF should prepare the preparation stage must be started by March 2023, then the team can focus on the implementation afterward.

2.2. Achievement Against Results Framework

During 2020-2022, to reflect the key activities of PRF III AF, the mission (June 2022) reviewed the proposed project restructuring under process to address key changes to be made to the project's Results Framework (RF) while some PDO indicators as well as intermediate result indicators have been revised to capture reality of project activity (detailed in Annex 1). The key achievement indicators with clarification can highlight below:

A. Project Development Objectives (PDO)

2.2.1 Direct project beneficiaries

In the past, PRF has counted the beneficiaries as the whole village's population that received sub-project/infrastructure supported by PRF, we assumed that during the village development planning all villagers involved in decision making to choose the top prioritized sub-project that would benefit to their community both direct and indirect ways.

Due to new villages received sub-projects in AF, thus, the mission in June 2022 noticed that the project has already overachieved its target (876,700). The proposed target is increased to 950,000. There are 238 villages in the second batch of the village of the AF among which 105 new villages that have never received any support from PRFI, PRF II, and PRF III). The 105 new villages represent a population of 49,833 inhabitants; PRF assume that at least 90% of them (44,850 inhabitants) will benefit from PRFIII AF through infrastructure, SHG, PGs, FNGs).

By the end of 2022, there is the implementation of new construction under the PRF III AF funded in the 4 Provinces with a total of 173 SPs would benefit to 76,343 beneficiaries, 37,339 females (49%), and 63,048 are from small ethnics (83%).

For PDO indicator: The target beneficiary in the last year of PRF III AF (2024) is 876,700 people, which is counted the accumulated data from PRF II in 2012 because over 80% of total villages in PRF III are the same villages as PRF II, in 2021, we got 889,302 beneficiaries (unduplicated village). In 2022, we checked the list of only the new villages that just got supported by PRF with 33 villages with 17,501 people, so the total of this year as June 2022 is 906,803 beneficiaries (889,302+17,501), the new proposed target is 950,000 beneficiaries, see details in the table below:

Table 2: Total Beneficiaries including female and ethnicity of PRF III and PRF III AF

Indicator	Baseline (End target PRF III)	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End Target PRF III AF	% Achieved
1) Direct project beneficiaries	690,000 ²	906,803	-	950,000	95.45%
2) Female beneficiaries (%)	50%	49.10%	50%	50%	98.20%
3) Ethnic beneficiaries (%)	70%	84.9% ³	70%	70%	120.7%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division 2022

² The endline target of PRF III's beneficiaries is 690,000 (achievement 889,302 which include 2 years extension data) while the end target of the PRF III AF is 876,700, due to many new villages in this period, we might update this indicator during MTR.

³ We used accumulative data from 2017-2022 for all SPs, for 2022 under AF, we used the estimated number based on actual complete sub-project, last mission we used the estimate number (84.5% replaced by 84.9%).

Remark: To ensure the unduplicated counting, PRF used the village ID code to check, from 2012-2019 (Period of PRFII and PRFIII), and from 2020-2022 (Period of PRFIIIAF).

The PRF III AF, as of the end of 2022, has a total of 19,108 SHG members (12,146 member in 1st and village, and 6,962 are in the 2nd batch), and a total of 25,689 FNG members who registered in 1st village (18,037 member) and 2nd batch villages (7,652 member). For producer group, there are 297 PG members from 29 PGs. The beneficiaries of the mentioned activities can be detailed below:

Table 3: Number of beneficiaries in PRF III AF in 2022

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
Infrastructure	76,343	22,065	8,969	21,570	23,739
PG	297	0	142	0	155
SHG	19,108	6,396	1010	5,315	6,387
Nutrition	25,689	7,247	3,521	8,941	5,980
Total 2022	121,437	35,708	13,642	35,826	36,261
Total 2021	97,217	28,699	10,999	27,504	30,015
% increase comparing by 2021	24.91%	24.42%	24.03%	30.26%	20.81%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

In addition, accumulated beneficiaries of PRF, particularly from the PRF III we can check only new villages that have never received any supported from previous PRF. For other beneficiaries from other activities: livelihood, PG, and FNG can base on the registered member and participation in the project activities in each period

2.2.2 Female beneficiaries (Percentage)

For this PDO indicator, we used the cumulative number of female beneficiaries which included 173 SPs at PRF III AF (2017-2022), which is 49.10 % (table2), a bit lower than the target of 50%, it depends on the proportion of the population in those target villages.

Under PRF III AF, the percentage of change of beneficiary of women in those 4 provinces while presented 34.37% increased by comparing to 2021, we can justify by project activities as table below:

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
Infrastructure	37,339	10,916	4,416	10,535	11,472
PG	238	0	92	0	146
SHG Female	17,637	5,527	1004	5,083	6,023
Nutrition	20,102	5,668	2,837	6,969	4,628
Total 2022	75,316	23,187	8,349	22,692	22,248
Total 2021	56,051	17,105	6,227	15,839	16,880
% Increase compared by 2021	34.37%	35.56%	34.08%	43.27%	31.80%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

2.2.3 Ethnic beneficiaries (Percentage)

As above this PDO indicator, we also used the cumulative number of ethnic beneficiaries (2017-2022, Table 2 above), it is 84.9% which is 24.9% higher than the target (70%).

For PRFIII AF, in those 4 PRF that received 173 SPs located in 173 villages, the total number of ethnic beneficiaries is 63,048 out of total 76,343 beneficiaries (last report used estimated number at 79,237), equivalent to 82.59 % for only infrastructure, while the percentage of ethnic beneficiaries on other component (PGs, SHGs, & FNGs) can justify by project activities as the table below:

Beneficiaries	Total	Phongsaly	Oudomxay	Huaphanh	Xiengkhuang
Infrastructure	63,048	16,059	8,098	15,469	23,422
PG	47	0	27	0	20
SHG	10,122	3,984	689	2,412	3,037
Nutrition	18,076	5,791	2,429	5,598	4,258
Total 2022	91,293	27,941	9,535	23,479	24,067
Total 2021	63,034	20,959	7,563	14,854	19,658
% Increase compared by 2021	44.83%	33.31%	26.07%	58.07%	22.43%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

Remark: As mentioned in the last report, the beneficiaries of infrastructure we based on the actual number after the construction completed, we propose for the new project it should be set up new target for each indicator based on project activities in each component.

PRF has supported the poor community in the target areas to improve basic infrastructure so that villagers can easily access basic services. For example, the improved quality of public facilities such as road travel from the village to the production areas, they can save time to do other activities related to their living condition.

2.2.4 % Reduction in travel time from the village center to Kumban center due to road improvements (Percentage)

This indicator was revised During period of PRFIII and its extension (2017-2021), we measured measure the percentage change in the estimated motorcycle time in terms of minutes from the village center to the kumban center before the PRF infrastructure investment was operational and afterward. PRF used a total of 234 road sub-projects that PRF supported, the result shows that the villagers can reduce 52.30 % of the time, which is 12.3% higher than the target of PRF III (40%).

During PRFIII AF, this indicator would not be tracked anymore as the additional financing will focus on roads linking agricultural production areas to villages. In the restructured results framework, it has been replaced by **the indicator: % reduction in travel time from agricultural production areas to villages' centers due to road improvements (Percentage)**. In December 2022, there are 54 rural road upgrades under AF had completed, and PRF measured the travel time as using motorcycle as the average 51.9% of time that can reduce compared with before this road project was operated, which is 11.9% exceeded the target. As detail in table below:

Districts	#Road	Travel time before	Travel time after	% Reduced Time
May	3	30.00	15.00	50.0%
Boun Tai	8	47.50	24.00	50.0%
Huameaung	1	40.00	19.00	52.5%
Kham	3	18.33	9.00	51.1%
Khua	15	57.00	27.67	51.5%
Khuan	7	43.57	19.57	53.8%
La	1	100.00	60.00	60.0%
Namor	2	47.50	27.50	60.7%
Samphan	9	47.78	23.11	51.8%
Xam Tai	5	98.00	48.60	50.4%
Grand Total	54	52.59	25.94	51.9%

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

Remark: The rural road supported is not only reduction of the time traveling to production areas, but it is linked the village bring their production to sell in the market, somehow, the trader also travels in the village to buy their products (Internal assessment).

2.2.5 % increase in children aged 6–23 months from Farmer Nutrition Group (FNG) households consuming foods from four or more recommended food groups.

This is one indicator that we would get from the Convergence Impact Evaluation (Baseline, Mid-term, and final evaluation). Thus, PRF will work with the Convergence team to find out the result of the baseline survey conducted in 2020, the mid-term survey (2022) which is ongoing, and the final survey (2024), the percentage of children aged 6-23 months old, from Farmer Nutrition Group households who are reported to have consumption at least 4 out of the 9 food groups (using a classification of food groups based on international recommendations) during the 24 hours preceding the time of interview out of the number of children 6-23 months from households that are beneficiaries of the FNG activities. The baseline shows 37.5% and the final target is 40%, this indicator will be reported during the next round of the survey led by MPI.

2.2.6 Kilograms of animal meat produced (number)

This indicator needs to be revised, the target was overly ambitious and should probably be reduced. It is difficult to set a target as it is not known in advance if PGs will be undertaking a livestock activity (instead of crop). Inflation is at 33%; the cost of input is increasing significantly and it is not as interesting to undertake livestock activities (particularly in none poor villages where they have other income-generating activities; the AF did not do targeting based on poverty). Delays were experienced due to COVID-19 (9 months) and in addition, no activity was allowed to take place for 8 months because of the convergence baseline had to take place.

The target was updated taking into account the trends in the type of meat production, and the volume produced by PGs and SHGs. Since the current monitoring, we based on the activities under SHG and the trend from 2020 - 2022, since the production group activity is on processing to implement, the trends of loan taken for only animal raising in each year of AF period are detailed in the table below. The number of a total 7,617 loan taken members for animal raising, where in 2020, there are only 132 members (1.7%); in 2021, there 3584 members (47.1%); and in 2022, where is the highest number at 3901 members (51.2%).

Table 4: Trends of loan taken for animal raising 2020-2022

Animal Raising	2020	2021	2022	Total
Fish	3	97	114	214
Pig	70	1977	2188	4235
Duck	15	243	272	530
Goat	14	337	371	722
Chicken	30	930	956	1916
Grand Total	132	3584	3901	7617
	1.7%	47.1%	51.2%	100%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

In the first half of the project, the SHG members have taken loans from seed grants to invest in various income generation activities in the first batch 229 villages. The major income-generation activities which contribute to meat production are pig raising, chicken raising, goat rearing, duck raising, and fish farming. The outputs of these income generation activities are used for estimation of meat production by SHG members. In December 2022, a total of 7,617 SHG members from 972 SHGs had received loan from seed grants and taken up these activities. The meat production details are presented below:

Table 5: Kilogram of meats produced 2020-2022 under PRFIIAF

Activities	Members	Budget (LAK)	# Livestock	Average Kgs/animal*	Total Kgs
chicken Raising	1916	3,131,381,000	240,875	1.5	361,313
Goat Raising	722	1,648,850,000	2,748.08	35	96,183
Duck Raising	530	744,358,000	49,623.87	2	99,248
Fish Raising	214	537,400,000	895,666.67	0.34	304,527
Pig Raising	4,235	9,395,694,000	18,791.39	50	939,569
Grand Total	7,617	15,457,683,000			1,800,840

Source: PRF MIS Database, June 2021

The achievement against the target can be seen in the table below, which is 33 % in 2022, the total number of meats produced in 2022 is increased 50%% by comparing the achieved total of Kgs of meat produced in June 2022 (1,201,494 Kg).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target 2022	End Target	% Achieved
# Kgs of animal meat produced	527,219	1,800,840	5,454,540	5,454,540	33%

This indicator will be revised during the MTR to set the possible target which can be achieved during the project period, based on the trends, we propose at 3,000, 000 Kg instead of 5,454,540 kg.

B. Intermediate Results Indicators (IRIs)

Component 1: Community Development Sub-grants

2.2.7. % sub-project activities of high technical quality (Percentage).

During the project life of PRF III and Extension period, for this indicator, we based on the Technical, Utilization, and Beneficiary Satisfaction Assessment conducted in 2018, thirty-six sub-projects were randomly selected, reported that 92% (which is 7% exceeded the target value, 85%) of the infrastructures were considered to be in good condition, with the remaining 8% being rated fair as confirmed by the consultant team.

In June 2022, to respond to actual need, this indicator was revised to be “% of sub-projects meeting technical quality standards”, the technical external assessment in this year (funded by World Bank) was conducted aimed to measure the (i) technical quality and sustainability and (ii) the outcomes of the completed sub-projects between 2016 and 2021 (a total of 84 different sectors of constructed infrastructure). The focus of this evaluation is on the results of technical assessment. Overall, **50% of the sub-projects were assessed as Good with 43% assessed as Fair** and only a small 7% were Poor; and the firm confirmed that we can use the average at good and fair that sub-projects met quality standard, thus, it is 93%, which is 8% exceeded its target.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2019	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% sub-project activities of high technical quality	85%	93%	-	85%	109.4%

2.2.8 PRF-built infrastructure of a functioning quality (Percentage).

During this reporting period 2020-June 2022, since the PRF had been operating in all 10 provinces, we followed non-functioning sub-projects the status of all SPs constructed during 2012-2021. A total of 3,388 sub-projects were constructed from 2012-2021 (1,930 SPs from PRF II, 2012-2016; and 1,458 SPs from PRF III and its Extension 2017- 2021), for PRF III AF we will add next year more SPs or at least 6 months after project completion. We found that 3,222 sub-projects (95.10%) were considered as fully functioning, where 152 sub-projects (4.49%) of broken sub-projects have been repaired and re-used, and only 09 sub-projects had been operated in a period then they had been broken and unusable; only 1 SP is under the requested fund for repair, and only 4 unusable sub-projects (community local markets) after the completion. However, those have been proposed to use as the village meeting hall, and village’s activities such as using as temporary stay for disaster victims, using as a place for providing vaccination and etc. instead.

In addition, the PRFIII’s Technical Assessment and Outcomes Survey in 2022 (funded by World Bank) found that of the 84 sub-projects, only 7 (8%) were not in operable condition. All the road and building sub-projects are 100% in full-use. So, we proposed to use 92% functioning quality of construction.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
The PRF-built infrastructure of a functioning quality	80%	92%	80%	80%	115%

Remark: For the functioning infrastructure is related to operation and maintenance, the assessment team stated that most of the sub-project villages reported having active maintenance committees although maintenance activities vary considerably in frequency. Most also reported difficulties in

mobilizing for maintenance due to lack of funds and the majority of villages do not collect any regular fees for maintenance. Some utilize the village funds when required.

2.2.9 Sub-Project activities implemented by type (number).

This indicator we used accumulated data from PRF II and PRF III, the final target of the PRF AF in 2024 is 3,440 SPs. From the year 2012-2022, which also included the first year of AF (173 SPs) the total of implemented sub-projects is 3,561 which is comprised of 6 categories. As the figures shown in the table below, the education sector is the first priority requested by the community covered by 1,227 SPs (34.5%), followed by the water and sanitation sector covered by the majority of 1,003 SPs (28.2%); Public Works and Transport (PWT) sector with 828 SPs (23.3%); as the third follows; 317 SPs (8.9%) are relevant to Agriculture and Forestry, while the health sector (151 SPs) had 2% and the only 1% of the Energy and Mining implemented (35SPs), since last three sectors were mostly provided by Government and other development projects thus the proportion in the PRF's support lower than education, water and PWT sectors. The detail in the table below:

Table 6: Number of Sub-projects by sectors 2012-2022

Sectors	Number of Sub-projects				Total	% Sectors
	PRF II (2012-2016)	PRF III (2017-2021)	2012-2021	PRF III AF		
Agriculture and Forestry	137	132	269	48	317	8.9%
Education	715	512	1,227		1,227	34.5%
Energy and Mining	19	16	35		35	1.0%
Health	116	35	151		151	4.2%
Public Works and Transportation	355	377	732	96	828	23.3%
Water & Sanitation	588	386	974	29	1,003	28.2%
Total	1,930	1,458	3,388	173	3,561	100.0%
Target					3,440	

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, June 2022

By looking at the target based on the resulting framework, we used accumulated numbers from PRF II (2012-2016) as the baseline data for PRF III, PRF III (2017-2019), PRF III Extension (2020-2021), and PRF III AF from 2022-2024 when all SPs will have been implemented. So, to measure this indicator, we can base it on the total number from 2012 up to 2022 which is 3,561 SPs which reached 103.5% against a target in 2024 (3,440 SPs).

Indicator	Baseline 2019	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target 2024	% Achieved
Sub-Project activities implemented	2,800	3,561	-	3,440	103.5%

Notice: During the period of PRF III AF, PRF only supported the basic infrastructure that link to agricultural production such as rural road improvement to access production areas, and water for agriculture (irrigation channels, etc.). Thus, the school, health, and electricity will not be supported. The number of total SPs against target should be higher if in AF we agreed to support one sub-projects in all target villages instead of only 75% as mention in former POM.

2.2.10 VIT members that are female (Percentage).

PRF remains supports the Gender Equality in the PRF's sub-project implementation. Therefore, this indicator is a new addition of the PRF III AF (2020-2024) which represents the percentage of females involved in the VIT management team. Between 2020-2021 (PRF III extension), there were 289 sub-projects with the involvement of 2,583 VITs; 872 females (33.76%). Therefore, the PRF III AF's coverage, the implementation of the 173 sub-projects under the PRF III AF, 1,038 VIT members are appointed, out of which 528 are females (50.9%).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target 2024	% Achieved 2024
% VIT members that are female	31%	50.9%	-	40%	127.25%

By comparing with the end target, this indicator can reach 127.25%, the number of women involved in VIT is much higher in the PRF III AF areas because many of the member of VSMCs who will also work for VIT are women. We found that in the previous PRFs the proportion of female VIT is lower caused the construction with technical standard and the project hired contractors to implement the work, so, the community needed the strong and skill person to follow up the construction.

2.2.11 Number of women selected for RMGs who earn an income, as % of the number of poor households in the village (Percentage).

This indicator should not continue to evaluation since the project additional financing is not financing any Road Maintenance Group (communities are just trained for O&M). In 2021, the assessment of this indicator was discussed, and agreed that previously it was supposed to be measured only once by an impact evaluation with the Gender Lab, which ended up not measuring exactly this indicator in 2020. The indicator and the methodology of data collection will be updated with the restructuring of the RF and the target will also be increased significantly. The indicator was updated to the *percentage of women selected for Road Maintenance Groups earning an income out of the number of poor households in targeted villages*. The project is currently tracking progress on the indicator for 2022 or when the RMG set up after completion of the road sub-project. However, the setting up of RMG during PRFIIIAF is being questionable, since there is no budget special budgeted for this activity, that is proposed to discuss during the MTR.

2.2.12 Percentage increase in irrigated areas (Hectares).

In the last report (semi-2022), we referred to the data of PRFIII and its extension period, this is to indicate the percentage increase around land that is irrigated for agriculture or fisheries production because of subproject infrastructure investments. We used a total of 61 irrigation systems (supported during 2017-2021) and 18 irrigation system supported during PRFIIIAF (2021-2022), so, we calculated at total of 79 irrigation system (irrigation construction or renovation, irrigation channel, weir renovation or construction, etc.) for this report where a total irrigated area before is 841.32 Ha, while the areas after is 1256.3 Ha, the hectares irrigated were increased by 49.32% compared between before.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Percentage increase in irrigated areas	-	49.32%	50%	50%	89.64%

Remark: To ensure the quality of data, the PRF team works with DAFO to collect data and certified by the district local authority. For the PRFIIIAF, this indicator can be measured only when the irrigation subprojects have been completed and handover to the community for at least 6 months to one-year period or at least two seasons (rainy and dry seasons). As confirmed by the beneficiaries they confirmed that the irrigations schemes are mainly used for rice production and thus also resulted in adoption of 2 cropping seasons and increased their productivity (FEE, 2021).

Component 2: Local and Community Development Capacity Building (6 indicators)

2.2.13 Households in PRF beneficiary villages voting for village priorities (Percentage).

This indicator represents % of households in PRF's beneficiary villages voting for village priorities, it is remained the same (no change). We based on the number of representative(s) from households (HHs) who participated in VDP. During the PRF III AF 2021-2022, there were 12,248 (86.20%) out of 14,209 HHs participated in voting for the village priorities which is 11.2% exceeded the target (75%). In PRF III (2017-2022), there were 112,872 (88.5%) out of 127,563 households participated in voting for the village priorities, which is 13.5 % higher than the target, as detailed in the table below:

Table 7: HHs participated in village priorities PRFIII and AF

Provinces	# HHS Accumulated 2017-2021			PRF III AF 2022			# HHS Accumulated 2017-2022		
	HH Parti.	Total HHs	%	HH Parti.	Total HHs	%	HH Parti.	Total HHs	%
Attapeu	6,904	9,011	76.6%				6,904	9,011	76.6%
Huaphanh	11,829	12,808	92.4%	3,238	4,159	77.9%	15,067	16,967	88.8%
Luangnamtha	5,074	5,823	87.1%				5,074	5,823	87.1%
Luangprabang	18,709	19,879	94.1%				18,709	19,879	94.1%
Oudomxay	13,285	15,704	84.6%	1,536	1,927	79.7%	14,821	17,631	84.1%
Phongsaly	4,156	4,991	83.3%	3,412	3,849	88.6%	7,568	8,840	85.6%
Saravane	9,351	10,763	86.9%				9,351	10,763	86.9%
Savannakhet	21,621	22,450	96.3%				21,621	22,450	96.3%
Sekong	5,484	6,906	79.4%				5,484	6,906	79.4%
Xiengkhuang	4,211	5,019	83.9%	4062	4274	95.0%	8,273	9,293	89.0%
Grand Total	100,624	113,354		12248	14209		112,872	127,563	
Achievement		88.8%			86.20%			88.5%	
Target		75%			75%			75%	
Exceed		13.8%			11.2%			13.5%	

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, June 2022

To measure the achievement against the target, we used the accumulated number of HHs involved in VDP from 2017 to 2022 in comparison with the total HHs in the target villages that received at least one sub-project.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% PRF beneficiary villages voting for village priorities	75%	88.50 %	75%	118%

Remark: it is good to have this indicator for life of PRF, however, it must be better if we can evaluate how much people understand and share their perception in the meeting at VDP, thus would propose to mention in Beneficiary Assessment done by external consultant.

2.2.14 Households in PRF beneficiary villages satisfied with the participatory planning process supported by PRF III (Percentage).

The Technical, Utilization, and Beneficiary Satisfaction Assessment 2018 assessed various aspects of the beneficiary's satisfaction towards the support they have received from the PRF and the Government. Thirty-six villages that had benefited from PRF III sub-projects were sampled covering various types of infrastructure. This study shows that 95% of the interviewed groups were fully satisfied with the planning process and its results, with only 5% of the interviewed groups indicating that they were marginally satisfied, which is 15% exceeded the target value (80%) of this year

The Donor Super Mission in 2021, recommended that the result achieved and measured in 2018-should not be reported across other years as it was not measured again and would not reflect the current reality, thus, it was advised to conduct an independent satisfaction survey of beneficiaries. This will be able to estimate this indicator, and also to identify ways to improve PRF additional financing by looking at satisfaction beyond planning and future implementation of the CLEAR Project. The first draft outcomes of this evaluation should be able to present the draft report during MTR (By the end of February 2023).

Additional information, FEE in 2021 stated that it seems project beneficiaries are highly satisfied with the project activities and felt its impact on their lives in terms of better access to basic infrastructure, education and health. The project has also shown that by using bottom-up approach of development, the communities could perform better than usual by taking ownership.

Suggestion: The technical, functioning, and Beneficiary assessment we proposed to conduct at the same time, as to ensure the key person has sufficient time to read and provide feedback at the same time.

2.2.15 PRF III sub-project prioritized by women (Percentage).

During the planning process, priorities come from both women and men who discuss their needs in two separate groups. In the PRF III (2017-2019), the total of 1,169 sub-projects where 1,092 SPs were involved by women (93%) which is 3% exceeded the target (90%). Duration of the PRF III Extension (2020-2021), a total of 276 out of 289 sub-projects were involved by women which is equivalent to 96% and 6% exceeded the target indicator (90%). For the four provinces under AF, we will continue the same approach of the VDP system under the former FRF, where the priorities are selected by separate groups of males and females, where 3 out of 5 village priorities should come from a female group.

In 2022, the achievement against the target indicator, we can use the accumulated data from 2017 to 2022, in which women had involved in the selection of all SPs that PRF had supported during this period, which is 1528 out of 1631 SPs, which is 93.7%., which 3.7% exceed the target. The last update for this indicator will be counted by the end of 2023.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Sub-project prioritized by women	90%	93.7%	90%	90%	104.1%

2.2.16 PRF III sub-projects prioritized by ethnic group (Percentage)

To ensure that ethnic groups are adequately consulted with and participate in sub-project planning and implementation, and that any negative impacts were avoided, minimized or mitigated, thus, the project has provided an opportunity for all ethnic groups in the target villages to raise their voices in planning. This indicator is based on the number of ethnic groups that participated in the VDP in each target village that received at least a sub-project from PRF. We measured this indicator based on the proportion of ethnic participants compared with the total participants during the PRF III with its extension period, and the AF from 2017-2022, as detailed in table below:

Table 8: Participation of ethnic groups in planning village priorities

Province	PRFIII (2017-2021)		PRFIII AF (2022)		2017-2022	
	Total Participants	Ethnic participants	Total Participants	Ethnic participants	Total Participants	Ethnic participants
Attapeu	6,740	6,335			6,740	6,335
Huaphanh	15,515	8,200	3,864	1,855	19,379	10,055
Luangnamtha	6,171	6,137			6,171	6,137
Luangprabang	19,376	16,845			19,376	16,845
Oudomxay	15,274	14,538	1,700	1,584	16,974	16,122
Phongsaly	4,793	4,676	5,462	4,844	10,255	9,520
Saravane	15,409	13,488			15,409	13,488
Savannakhet	28,327	23,736			28,327	23,736
Sekong	5,206	5,003			5,206	5,003
Xiengkhuang	4,625	3,943	3,800	2,654	8,425	6,597
Grand Total	121,436	102,901	1,4826	10,937	136,262	113,838
Achievement		84.7%		73.8%		83.5%
Target		70%		70%		70%
Exceed		15%		4%		14%

Source: PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2021

To measure this indicator against the final target, we can use the accumulated number of participants from 2017-2022, in which 113,838 out of 136,262 participants from the ethnic group, which is 83.5% where 13.5% exceed the target (70%).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
% SPs prioritized by ethnic group	70%	83.5%	70%	70%	119.28%

The final update for this indicator will be updated by the end of 2023, when all activities almost implemented.

2.2.17 Communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities (Number).

To count this indicator, we also used the accumulated number of the village that received at least one sub-project from 2012 up to 2021, which is 1,732 villages, while in PRF III AF in 2022, we found only 33 out of 173 villages that are new villages that received support during this period. Thus, this indicator can count as 1,765 villages (1,732+33), which is 101.67% against the final target in 2024.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
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Communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities	1,450	1,765	-	1,736	101.67%
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Notice: Updating of definition to match methodology of collect as discussed between the World Bank consultant and PRF. There is a disconnect between the indicator and the definition, the definition is weak compare to what the indicator means (current definition: Number of villages that are trained by PRF to prepare Village Development Plans). A community should be accounted for as able to plan, implement and monitor their activities when it has fully completed a planned project with the support of a functional Village Implementation Team (fully functional to monitor activities).

Component 3: Project Management

2.2.18 Registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures (Percentage)

To ensure that the feedbacks from local community has been recorded and responded FRM is one important pathway to follow up the feedback of PRF's activities in the target areas, it is important to ensure the transparency and accountability of PRF's work, where all beneficiaries have right to share their feedbacks. During 2020-2022, just only in the AF coverage, a total of 1,058 feedbacks including proposes (468), request for funds (220), request for more information (71), compliments (273), and complaints (26). Most of the feedbacks were shared through the community meeting which related to project activities in each component, including the community development, the livelihood, nutrition, and etc. The feedbacks during this period have been summarized in table below:

Table 9: the feedbacks by type, province and year under PRF/IIAF 2020-2022

By Provinces	Propose	Request for fund	Need more information	Compliment	Complaints	Total	Percent
Houaphanh	27	73	14	8	11	133	13%
Xiengkhuang	53	26	9	64	14	166	16%
Phongsaly	340	100	36	159	1	636	60%
Oudomxay	48	21	12	42		123	12%
Grand Total	468	220	71	273	26	1058	100%
By year	Propose	Request for fund	Need more information	Compliment	Complaints	Total	Percent
2020	5	93	26	7		131	12%
2021	225	64	33	152	13	487	46%
2022	238	63	12	114	13	440	42%
Grand Total	468	220	71	273	26	1058	100%

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division PRF, December 202

For this indicator we counted only the number of registered complaints with total respond with satisfactory agreed process. In summary, there are only minor issues (26 complaints) that happened in the community that local people and local staff could manage and solve by themselves 100% against 90% in the project target.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
Registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures	90%	100%	90%	90%	111%

Additional information about complaints/issues: About livelihood: Mostly the issues about SHG members resigned due to their unclear understanding of the SHGs' loan principle, members do not have time to join the SHG's activity regularly, some SHG members do not have incomes and they could not repay for their loan, some moved to work in other provinces, etc... and other complaints were also related to nutrition issues such as there is a comparison between the supported budget which is 4000 kip per each per FNG's cooking activity with the supported budget of Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project (RRPMP) which provided LAK180,000 for their target beneficiaries, while the Health Project supported LAK 80,000 per month for its target, while PRF only supported cooking session without cash to community, this caused some FNG members wanted to leave to FNGs and some did not want to bring their children to join the FNG's cooking demonstration.

This caused a conflict among the members due to the different support in the same target areas. As well as most of the proposals are related to nutrition activities such as the proposal for increasing the budget for the cooking activity, the request for crop seeds for the home nutrition garden and request for providing more SBCC training. However, all encountered issues have been addressed throughout the consultation with reasonable and agreed procedures and a close coordination between PRF staff, village authority and the concerned governmental sectors to address issues in the field together. Therefore, in the 2nd batch village all convergence projects have to improve the coordination and cooperation, to ensure that the people in the same areas get the highest benefit for now and future.

FEE 2021 stated that an effective and documented Feedback Resolution Mechanism (FRM) is in place. This study stated that addressing and dealing with complains has exceeded the target of 90% by resolving all relevant complaints. The rate of satisfactory responses is excellent. The subject of the requests from beneficiaries, however, is not as hoped for, extremely few "complaints" were relevant, critical reflections. This is however likely to improve over time by increased empowerment and trainings of beneficiaries.

For the new project, we proposed to pay attention on the feedback of community to reflect what the project activities to impacts their living condition, even, we found minor issues about complaints that they provided, but reality, they also proposed and suggested many activities that would be better support their community development.

Component 4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development

2.2.19. Individuals using loans from SHGs (Number)

This indicator shows the number of SHG members who took at least one loan upon approval of the PRF III AF Project. During 2020-2022, there are total of 10,334 loans taken from SHG under the PRF AF support (8,020 members), from their savings (1,932 members) and from PRF III's budget (382). By using an accumulated number of individual loans from with a total of 20,296 loan takers

which is 92.24% against the yearly target in 2022(22,000 member). For the final year is 2023, at least 34,000 loan taken times as the final year of the project.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved Yearly target
Individuals using loans from SHGs	9,962	20,296	22,000	34,000	92.25 %
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Overall Achievement</i>	<i>Phongsaly</i>	<i>Oudomxay</i>	<i>Huaphanh</i>	<i>Xiengkhuang</i>
2022	10,334	3,273	518	4,128	2,415
2021	5,177	967	347	2,732	1,131

Notice: There is limited budget that SHG could allocate to all members at the same time, so to reach the target for the year 2022, at least 22,000 members should take loans. Therefore, the PRF team, especially YGs, must work hard to encourage loan takers to repay and get opportunity to the rest members to get the loan. While PRF already allocated extra budget US\$ 80 for all member in 1st batch village, and for 2nd batch village agreed to allocated US\$ 200 per each member this would provide more opportunity to member to take the loan for their livelihood activities.

2.2.20. %VSMC members that are female (Percentage).

This is a new indicator of PRF III AF, the VSMC has an important role to be involved in supporting and supervising the SHG's activities as well as supporting and managing the deposit account for FNG's food subsidy, too. In the 1st Batch village, VSMC has been set up in 229 villages (out of 231 villages for the first batch) with a total of 1,355 VSMC members (Updated December 2022), 1,083 females (80 %) which is 15% higher than the target (65%). Each VSMC's structure is included 5 leadership positions appointed such as a chairperson and four vice-chairs.

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
%	-	81.02%	-	65%	124.65%
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Overall Achievement</i>	<i>Phongsaly</i>	<i>Oudomxay</i>	<i>Huaphanh</i>	<i>Xiengkhuang</i>
Total	1,355	478	114	408	355
Women VSMC	1,083	361	113	324	285
%	80%	75.52%	99.12%	79.4%	80.28%

Notice: In the 2nd batch village the updated number of VSMC is on processing and will be updated and reported soon.

In the implementation of PRF, VSMC is considered to be key person to handle the work after finishing project activities in every target village, thus, the capacity building for technical work is needed for livelihood and financial management (loan taken, repayment, saving, basic accounting) with closely support from concerned sectors at district level.

2.2.21. Number of Farmer Nutrition Group member households (Number).

In 2022, the progress of nutrition work has positively been implemented in 231 target villages. In this indicator, the number of HHs who participated in FNG's activities is counted including cooking sessions, home garden, and multi-media peer learning. In 2022 at the 1st Batch village, there are 249 FNGs in 231 villages with a total of 9,578 HHs which is 2,378 HHs higher than the yearly target (7,200 HHs), which is 66.97% compared to the final target in 2024 (14,300 HHs).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement 2022	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved Project target
Number of FNG member households	-	9,578	7,200	14,300	66.97%
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Achievement</i>	<i>Phongsaly</i>	<i>Oudomxay</i>	<i>Huaphanh</i>	<i>Xiengkhuang</i>
	9,578	2,835	1,029	2,966	2,748

Remark: the MIS system counted the number of HHs based on the registered mother to FNG member as the representative of HHs in the village. In the second batch village the basic data on FNG is on processing and will mention in upcoming report.

2.2.22. SHG members who take at least two loans (Percentage)

This indicator was proposed to adjust the final target. Since, the target is too ambitious and was reduced to 30% as discussed and agreed in October 2022, which will be agreed in MTR, according to PAD No. 3134 of PRF III AF, this is a new indicator that informs the percentage of total SHG members who have borrowed at least twice from the SHG. This measurement does not require full repayment of the second loan, only the taking of the loan, in addition, the project had a delayed start, COVID-19 impacts, and short period of implementation. During 2020-2022, as the end of 2022, we followed the 2nd loan taker we found only 2,853 members out of 11,586 loan takers (24.62 percent).

Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Yearly Target	End of Project Target	% Achieved
SHG members who take at least two loans	-	24.62%	35%	80%	30.78%

Remarks: The adjustment of this target would be discussed and agreed upon among the PRF team and the WB Consultation based on the reality of the SHGs activities. From 2020 to 2022, a total of 10,334 loans taken from SHGs (times of loan). If we counted only the single number who took the loan only 7,751 members (about 66.85%) out of a total of 11,586 active members. Therefore, the 2nd loan will occur only if the 1st loan has been released and repaid. The story behind this situation because of the high inflation of LAK currency in comparing with US\$ between 2021 & 2022, that cause there as not sufficient budget to allocate to all member in 2021 and 2022.

CHAPTER III: PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY COMPONENT

COMPONENT 1: SUB-GRANTS AND PLANNING

In PRFIII AF, PRF has been working in the 12 districts, 4 northern provinces under the with a total budget of US\$ 22.5 million, in which 28% of the total budget is planned for this component. This component covers these activities: 1) Village and District planning meetings and also social and environmental safeguards training, 2) Sub-grants for community infrastructure, 3) Community training on sub-project management, infrastructure operations and maintenance, and 4) Road Maintenance Groups (RMG) established and trained for RMG, under AF budget, there is no planned budget for this activity, which caused there was no new activity, only the operation and maintenance training that we provided to community before handing over to community.

3.1.1 Community Development and Planning

From 2020-2022, PRF AF has completed the planning process of 231 target villages, as mention in POM, 75% out of total village should get one sub-project, thus, only 173 sub-projects selected and approved by district authorities and concerned sectors in the District Coordination and Planning Meeting. The main emphasis of sub-projects is focusing on supporting the livelihood links nutrition activities, and CFA is used for small-scale infrastructure implementation. The review mission in June 2022, due to the capacity of the remaining budget for this activity (Component1). The mission agreed to revise the percentage of sup-project beneficiaries from 75% of total target villages to 100% that already revised in the Project Operation Manual of AF. This revision will be active in 2nd batch village (238 villages) and remaining villages that did not received SPs in the 1st batch (58 villages) during 2023 and early 2024 if there is an extension time.

3.1.2 Engineering works (CFA, RMG, DRM)

3.1.2.1. Community Force Account (CFA)

Based on the experiences of applying CFA in PRFIII, the lessons learned of CFA have been brought for discussion and revision and the CFA manual has been revised accordingly to be applied in the implementation of the sub-projects in the 4 provinces covered by PRFIII AF. In addition, this approach also includes the brainstorming session about any new development project to conform to the World Bank's emerging Country Partnership Framework and Contribute to achieving the Lao Government 9th NSED (2021-2025) and 10-year Strategy including SDG (2021-2030).

In the 1st batch village, the CFA approach has been applied in 173 SPs covered by the PRF III AF. Various training on CFA such as procurement, construction inspection, financial issues have been provided for PRF staff, 162 skilled labourers, and 943 VIT members.

As already mentioned, 172 out of 173 sub-projects have been implemented and almost completed, in comparison with previous PRFs, the construction works are delay, for example in Namor district which were impacted by disaster and most of the subproject at the district had been delay of implementation. All the subprojects had to resurvey and re-design because the subproject location were changed according to the steam size and the actual implementation started in December 2022. The physical complementation will be at the end of February 2023.

3.1.2.2. Road Maintenance Group (RMG) with constraint

In project document, stated that the RMG implementation of the PRF III AF will be applied the lessons learned and experience of RMG from the PRF III Extension. On the SPs of the road improvement in the target villages in the AF. RMG will be set up and the various training will be consequently conducted. However, the project additional financing is not financing any Road Maintenance Group. The RGM's implementation approach in the AF may differ from the PRF III Extension as there is the proposed some incomes from SHGs' dividend or the community savings from SPs, as the end of 2022, it is not possible to have sufficient dividend to support the RMG, in reality, the community had been received the O&M training that would suggest them to have the consumption fee that would also be an alternative way to ensure long term use for rural roads.

3.1.2.3. Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

To ensure that community gets high benefit from the project activities and avoid any risk to be occurred. Thus, during the survey and design period, the engineers will evaluate and mitigate the risk of the disaster impacts to the sub-projects, and avoid the impact when designing the subprojects. To build capacity for district staff in 4 provinces, the PRF will establish the districts and provincial team as focal points at each district, and report emergency cases. If PRF has sufficient budgets, the DRM team will also be set up at the village level for the emergency team and provide training on the DRM mapping for the community in case of emergency.

DRM for sub-projects in the 4 Provinces under PRFIIIAF in the 1st batch village

Type of Sub projects	Risk issue and potential disaster effects	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access road to production area and to villages• Bridge and pipe culvert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landslide on the side of the road• Roads are crossed by streams, which cannot be crossed in the rainy season or by storms• The road passing a rocky cliff and along a stream with a lot of rocks and small boulders• Erosion and blockage of trees at the bridge and pipe culvert• Excavate the soil along the road, it will create the water point and erosion to the road structure• Accident at the construction site or site safety• Fast driving along the new road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided the operation and maintenance training to community on each case and problem solving• Let the community plant trees to prevent landslides using biological methods• Installation of culvert pipe• Exploding some point of a rocky cliff and changing direction• Remove wood and prevent landslides with stone/concrete walls• Install the safety warning at the site• Inform all community on the safety at site• Organize the road driving safety to whole community.
Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Floods may occur during the rainy season, which will cause the canals to overflow, eroding of soil, and blockage of the canal by the trees.• Wing wall of headwater or weir eroded by over flooded or falling the trees• Landslides occur on the canal during heavy rain• Mud fills the paddy field due the broken of canal• No cleaning at the intake of the weir to let water over flooding of the weir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landslide protection facilities for canal and weir or Bio-engineer along the weir or high steep slope• Soil backfill in eroded points• Increasing the freeboard of the canal, weir for preventing the over flooded• The community had to do routine maintenance before raining

GFS (Gravity feed water supply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservoir construction site is not appropriate • Water intake facility construction site is not appropriate • Water intake facility is built along the stream. During the rainy season, wood waste, stone, and mud are buried in the intake. • Cutting the trees around the water source or plantation along the water source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to the new location and searched the other water source • During the planning process: Design the intake to avoid the current of the stream and build on the side to avoid the effects of large water. Adding the landslide and over-flooded protection facility • Setting up the technical working committee at each district authorized by the district governor. And allowed these teams to work with the community and set up the protection regulation
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3.1.3. Quality Control (QC)

Under PRFIIAF, QC is realized as one of the essential parts of the sub-project construction which help to ensure the quality of the subprojects, a Quality Assurance Advisor (QAA), and an Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (ESSS) to monitor sub-project implementation were used to be advised on improving procedures and quality. Based on existing quality control and ES Safeguards manuals, checklists were developed for sub-project design to be filled by the implementation teams at the village level. The Quality Control (QC) of the sub-projects will be certified by 5 layers, for example, firstly the teacher at the vocational school visits the construction site and on-the-job training and follow up during implementation, secondly, the VIT and community do the daily inspection, thirdly PRF district Engineering staff will monitor in two times per week, fourthly the district authority visits for two times of implementation in beginning and before handing over the subproject to the community. And Fifthly PRF-PMT or PRF officers at the national office or national university or donors' consultants randomly selection for inspection. This system was developed by the Quality Control Advisor of the World Bank since PRFII and trained to PRF Engineer to monitor.

During this reporting period, QC forms have been applied for 173 sub-projects covered by the PRF AF in the 4 Provinces checked by PRF staff, and VITs through the Quality Assurance System which included Quality Assurance Data Collection, informing all PRF staff, problem protection methodology, and problem impactation analysis to ensure all sub-projects construction meet the PRF and sector Quality Standard.

COMPONENT 2: LOCAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthening the capacity of all staff, concerned sectors, and the community is one of the prioritized issues for PRF, according to PAD3134, this component covers the project's Staff training, Government staff support communities in subproject implementation, Safeguard training, and M&E training. From 2020-2022, several trainings had been conducted in different level as the outcomes to have more competent staff, more sustainable systems of government support to communities, Communities more able to manage infrastructure and assets themselves and increase the quality-of-service delivery, and VITs, VSMCs and SHGs have gender balance in leadership. The highlight of this component can be summarized as below:

3.2.1. PRF staff capacity building

During 2020-2022, capacity building activities have remained a key focus. Main objective of these trainings was to strengthen capacity of community as well as PRF staff at all levels and government counterpart on the CDD model, the list of training topic captured different sections including the training on community development, engineering and technical work, monitoring and evaluation system including MIS, Reporting, and project evaluation, training on financial and procurement works, and orientation for all PRF staff and concerned sectors.

Additionally, the project has continuously organized various integration training sessions on newly and refresher training topics such as institution building, technical training including TOT, facilitation skills, and community development in a systematic and sequenced manner to develop skills of the staff and communities to facilitate the implementation of the project activities especially infrastructure construction supervision, livelihood and nutrition activities, which have been conducted in all levels through online applications and face to face training and meeting sessions in the 4 targeted Provinces of the PRF AF.

In addition, to ensure the quality of training, the Pre-training and Post-training Forms had been applied in some training by using the Google online form to evaluate the outcome of training.

Based on the Mission in June 2022, one of the tools that will help to mobilize the community participation and better communication is the IECs materials need to be developed in local language as needed and community facilitators (young graduates) to speak the local languages, as relevant, to strengthen community engagement and participation.

Besides, as the recommendation by the World Bank Team at the last online meeting on 24th May 2022, CDD Transformative Grassroots Leadership Training should be organized for local authorities and PRF staff. This training planned to conduct in 2023.

3.2.2. Local authorities and community's capacity building

The project has organized numerous training programs on institution building, technical training including TOT, facilitation skills, and community development in a systematic and sequenced manner to develop skills of the staff to facilitate appropriate participatory processes during project implementation, which had been conducted in different levels through online application and face to face meetings during COVID-19 pandemic. For community level, following key trainings had been conducted:

The skill labors training and VIT

The vocational school at each province had been contracted for the technical training to the skill labor at each village. The skill labor was selected for 2 people to attend the short training for two weeks on the topics of basic knowledge of concrete work and form work, this knowledge it will apply in the CFA method for small infrastructure subprojects. The training organized at district center by inviting the two skill labors at each village to attend. The 2 skill labors will have received the certificate from vocational school after the construction complete. During this period, a total of 162 skilled labours received training and got back to their villages to do CFA construed sub-projects in the villages that received small construction work. These people will continue to do the work construction work in their village and village nearby that could create job opportunity and income for them.

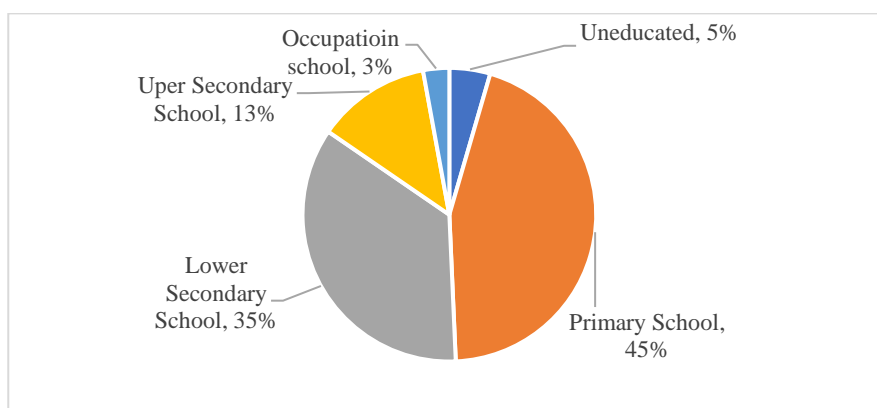
During the operation and maintenance training these two people will take response on the O&M activities at the village after handing over to community.

The village implementation team (VIT) were selected from VSMC, two people for community finance, two for procurement and two people for monitoring during the construction, total 4 women and 2 men. The 2 community procurements will be the representative of the community to sign the contract agreement with PRF. After subproject construction completed all these team will become VSMC and other 2 men become the operation and maintenance team at the village. There are 1,038 VIT members, the representatives from the villages who helped to follow up the work in 173 sub-projects in the 1st batch villages.

Operation and Maintenance Training (O&M): PRF emphasized the sustainability of the sub-projects and strengthened the community to manage the operation and maintenance, PRF delivered the training on O&M for the community after construction completion or before handing it over to the community management. There 104 out of the total of 173 SPs which were completed training on O&M around 60% and the remaining 69 SPs (40%) sub-projects will be completed the O&M training in February 2023. The operation and maintenance focused on 2 parts. One part for operation regulation and fee collection when it was broken and one part for technical repair and how to repair, these activities managed by 2 skill labors.

The VSMC is a committee at village level that supports the SHG, these people received several trainings provided by PRF and local authority about livelihood and microfinance management, we can say that they are community-based organization who work with YGs and will continue the work after project closure. It consists of representatives of the village council and SHGs. The VSMC will be formed at the end of 3rd fortnightly SHG meeting (2.5 months after SHG formation) that is, at the end of four SHG training modules. In the first half of the project, there is a total of 1,355 VSMC members to manage a total of 972 SHGs in 229 villages with 11,586 active members. The figure show status of VSMC education level, it shows that 45% of VSMC member has primary school education, 35% with lower secondary, while 13% with upper secondary school, 3% with occupation school, and only 5% of total is uneducated member.

Figure 1: VSMC members with education status (2020-2022)



In addition, since the animal raising is the main activities under livelihood part, the team also followed the progress of vaccination that can be done by SHG member, that they can apply for their real work. Table below presents a total of 5,599 members who received training provided by DAFO, and 3,347

member (59.8%) that confirmed they can do. Thus, these people who can do vaccination, they would be able to help to the rest of villagers or SHG member from now and future.

Table 10: Number of SHG member who can do vaccination in 1st batch village by province

Provinces	Vaccination training	Actual Testing	Member can do vaccination	%
Oudomxay	507	374	374	73.8%
Huaphan	2480	2480	1341	54.1%
Xiengkhuang	2382	1596	1486	62.4%
Phongsaly	230	230	146	63.5%
Total	5,599	4,680	3,347	59.8%

Source: Provincial Data Collection, December 2022

COMPONENT 3: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Finance and Administration

This is important to follow up the workplan with budget allocation from the start of PRFIIAF up to December 2022, in overall, during the period of PRFIIAF, the project's FM performance remains Satisfactory. The project complied with the financial reporting and audit requirements of the World Bank. By December 2022, the project complied with the financial reporting and audit requirements of the World Bank. The interim Financial Reports (IFRs) were submitted on time and were of acceptable quality.

3.3.1.1 Government contribution

In PRFIIAF (2020-2024), even though there is no co-financing from the Government in terms of cash, in kind, the local government still provided technical support for construction, livelihood, and nutrition activities at the village level.

3.3.1.2 Budgeting

As per the agreement, the PRF has submitted to the donors the work plan and related budget for the PRF III AF fiscal year 2022 for a total budget of US\$ 8,284,864 as follows:

Component1: Community Development Grants

Component2: Local & Community Development Capacity building

Component3: Project Management

Component4: Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Developments

CLEAR Project: PPA

3.3.1.3 External Audits

The PRF Financial Audit of PRFIII and PRFIII AF for the fiscal year 2021 (January 1 - December 31st, 2021) was conducted in March 2022 which the auditors did not raise any internal control on accountability issues, the financial audit report for FY 2021 has been submitted to the donors on time at the ended of June 2022.

The Final PRF Financial Audit of PRFIII of SDC funding from the period Jan-June 2022 has been conducted in Sept 2022 and the Financial Audit Report already submitted to the donor at the end of December 2022.

3.3.1.4 Disbursement

As of December 31st, 2022, the disbursement ratio reached 99% for the IDA credit 5827-LA equivalent 100% due to the conversion exchange rate from XDR to US\$. For IDA credit 65060 the disbursement ratio reached 44% of the total budget PRFIII AF. For the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) disbursement rate reached 100% and SDC disbursement rate reached 100%. For SDC COVID19 disbursement rate reached 100% and Government co-financing contribution reached 84%.

Table 11: PRF III Disbursement (as of December 31st, 2022)

Fund Source	Total Budget Allocated (US\$ million)	Disbursement as of Dec 31 st , 2022	Disbursement (Percentage)
WB (IDA credit 5827)	30,000,000	29,712,975	99%
WB (IDA credit 65060)	22,500,000	9,917,165	44%
SDC	18,395,200	18,395,200	100%
SDC COVID19	500,000	500,000	100%
GOL	6,000,000	5,023,050	84%
TOTAL:	<u>77,395,200</u>	<u>63,548,390</u>	<u>82%</u>

Source: PRF FA Division, Dec 2022

During the reporting period, the PRF project has proceed withdrawal application (SOE “statement of expenditure) from the donors for a “ total amount of US\$ 29,712,975 from IDA credit 5827; US\$ 9,917,165 from IDA credit 65060; US\$ 18,395,200 from SDC & US\$ 500,000 from SDC COVID19 and US\$ 5,023,050 from Government contribution).

Table 12: Summary of funding received and disbursed as of December 31st, 2022 (US\$)

Fund Source	Fund Received FY 2017-2022	Expenditure FY 2017-2022	Percentage of expenditures
WB (IDA credit 5827)	29,712,975	29,712,975	100%
WB (IDA credit 65060)	10,910,881	9,917,165	91%
SDC	18,395,200	18,395,200	100%
SDC COVID19	500,000	500,000	100%
GOL	5,023,050	5,023,050	100%
TOTAL:	<u>64,542,105</u>	<u>63,548,390</u>	<u>98%</u>

Source: PRF FA Division, Dec 2022

During the reporting period (January-December 2022), PRF has spent US\$ 5,936,463 for IDA65060 including US\$ 2,051,741 to support sub-projects and village planning (69%). US\$ 357,602 was disbursed for the capacity building (69%). US\$ 816,694 was used for project management activities (100%) and US\$ 1,959,183 supported Livelihood and Nutrition activities (49%).

Table 13: Expenditures by component (January- December 2022) in US\$

Description of Component	Budget for 2022	Expenditures to Dec 31 st , 2022	Percent expended (%)
Community Development Grants	2,924,330	2,051,741	69%
- Local & Community Development Capacity building			
- CLEAR Project	517,780	357,602	69%
Project Management	817,225	816,694	100%
Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development	4,025,529	1,959,183	49%
TOTAL	8,284,864	5,936,463	63%

Source: PRF FA Division, Dec 2022

3.3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation System

From 2020 to 2022, the M&E team of PRF focused on 3 key works: 1) ensuring the functioning of the MIS/database to collect data of project activities; 2) Reporting System with indicator updating; and 3) Evaluation (in house and external evaluation) and Learning. During this period, the team faced difficulties with the reduction of staff from 5 to 3 positions, while the project turned from infrastructure to livelihood and nutrition oriented, where team had to follow up the outcomes of the project at household instead of community level as previous PRFs. As the nature of M&E work which is depended on the work of other, thus, it required to have a good cooperation and supporting from the technical team who performed the specific works.

Fundamental Indicators: As confirmed by the mission in 2022, even, the project remains on track to achieve its Project Development Objective (PDO) by the current closing date of June 30, 2024, and the progress toward the PDO was rated as satisfactory. Due to the delay of project activity in the 2nd batch village, it is proposed to extend the closing period to December 2024 because it would take more time to do the project activity and follow up on the outcomes before handing them over to the local authority.

In addition, there are a few indicators had been revised and updated. Particularly the PDO indicator that we adjusted the final target to beneficiaries at 950,000 people (original 876,700) because the new districts and new villages were added in the AF period, while the percent reduction in travel time from agricultural production areas to villages' centers due to road improvements replace the reduction time from village to kumban center. Indicators related to health, water supply, and school will not be tracked because those activities are not supported in AF. About the kilogram of meat, since the target was overly ambitious (5.4 million KG) and should probably be reduced. It is difficult to set a target as it is not known in advance if PGs will be undertaking a livestock activity, this would propose for 3 million KG based on the trend of animal raising during 2020-2022. One intermediate indicator about the Percentage of women selected for the Road Maintenance Groups earning an income out of the number of poor households in targeted villages, as the project additional financing is not financing any Road Maintenance Group (communities are just trained for O&M), thus, it is impossible to get right data for this indicator, it is thus, to be discussed during the MTR.

There are many indicators that used accumulated data from PRFII and PRFIII that would be better to set up for AF's indicators because the activities are differences. Thus, for the new project, we propose to set up new indicators for each component with clear definition, responsible person, data source, and data collection methodology which would be easier for key staff to collect data.

Based on the experience and lessons learned from PRF III AF, we proposed the M&E system of the CLEAR's project, before the project starts at least the following document should be prepared and agreed:

- ✓ Project Document and objectives (POM, PAD, PDO, Result Chain, Forms, etc.)
- ✓ Clear results Frameworks (indicators definition, source, and key person, result chains, etc.)
- ✓ Project Forms & MIS Database should be defined and agreed before project starting. Thus, CLEAR needed to have MIS and IT officers to support the establish the MIS system with firm.

Together with monitoring on the progress of work under AF, the team also worked with consultant to prepare the M&E section for CLEAR. PRF and World Bank expert had discussed and prepared a theory of change results framework, M&E plan, and a results chain for the M&E manual. Then the team will work on the PDO and potential indicators, it was agreed that the World Bank mission will share some suggested indicators for the PDO including its M&E plan for further discussion. Thus, we requested to have a M&E person to help in preparing M&E manual, form, and monitor the MIS design for CLEAR.

3.3.2.1 Management Information System

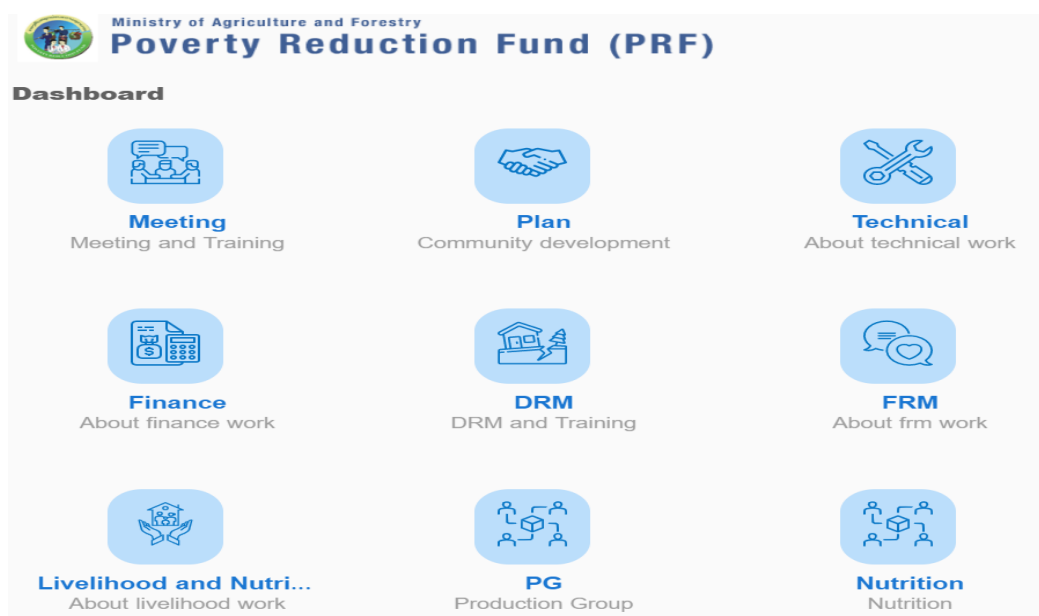
In the first half of AF, the system development of MIS had been developed, which enable to track the progress of project's activities in each component and sub-activities, based on the better improvement of the MIS PRF. More various data has fruitfully been inserted into the MIS system and several on-training sessions on data entry in the MIS have been conducted by PRF, which is easily accessible on YouTube.

The PRF staff including provincial, district, and village levels have been trained and strengthened their capacity for data auditing and validation, which is very important to ensure data quality. In addition, for further strengthening of PRF staff's capacity building, the usage of Kobo Toolbox and PowerBI was conducted (in July 2022) as well as google form which helps to understand data collection requirements for specific qualitative evaluations as such evaluation of skills adoption. This might apply to some in-house evaluations or data collection on project capacity-building evaluations, and other impact evaluations.

The update system captures key data of livelihood and nutrition as agreed in the last mission. Detail of data can see in the *Dashboard*: www.prfmis.org. For data entry: www.admin.prfmis.org that allows staff for data entry in different level. At the admin part, each staff at each level has User Name and Password that we can monitor the progress of work that each staff contributes to the project. The system can capture data of key activities under PRFIII AF:

1. Data of infrastructure/VDP: To monitor data about planning, participant, sub-project, CFA, community contribution, progress of work, safeguards,
2. Data of Livelihood (SHGs/PGs): To monitor data on SHG, member profile, VSMC, Seed grant,
3. Data of Farmer Nutrition Groups (Nutrition Activities): to monitor data of nutrition activities.

4. Data of DRM (when a disaster occurs each year): To follow up the impacts of disaster on project activities.
5. Data on Capacity building: Classified in training, meeting, field supporting for PRF staff, local government, and villagers.
6. Data of Feedback from the community (Complaints, requests, compliments, etc.), to monitor the feedbacks and any complaints about PRF from villagers, to ensure that their feedbacks had been acknowledged and responded. The admin face of MIS with this list of key work as picture below:



PRFAF is a multi-project activity by comparing with other projects in Laos. Due to the limitation of national staff to get to the field, PRF requested the MIS developer firm to provide the TOT training for focal staff at the national office together with provincial team, these people have become key supporters to support M&E work at the provincial level. Then the provincial team continued to provide training and sensitizing on MIS project staff at the district and village levels, as below information. For the second half of the project, this project is required to have an additional staff to support MIS work to look deeper data quality, MIS IT, and functional system at the grassroots level, and also help to design the new MIS to CLEAR.

For the CLEAR project, the donor mission suggested the PRF team take stock from other projects MIS implemented by donors and international NGOs to assess if there are simpler and more user-friendly MIS processes that could be managed in-house without requiring an external firm when changes are required and it is required to have an IT specialist to support during the first two years. This is a good time for the PRF team would learn from other experiences of NGOs' MIS in Laos that would develop for the new project.

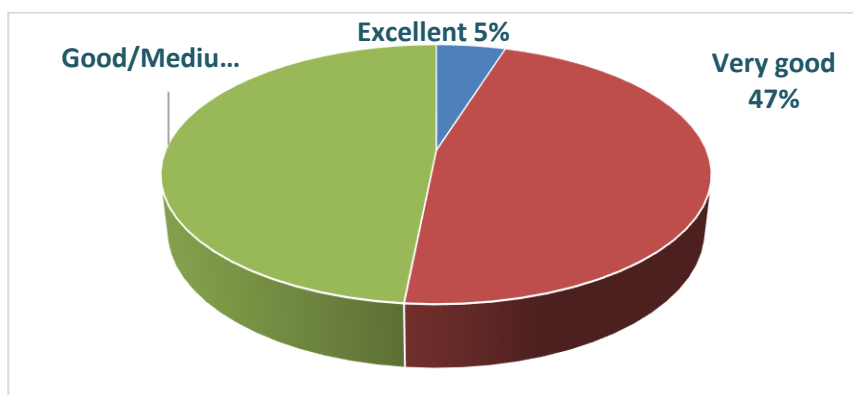
3.3.2.2 Reporting System

During 2020-2022, the PRF reporting system serves as a tool to track progress in PRF III AF projects and identify issues that require resolution. Different reports in the Lao version had been prepared and shared with concerned sectors of Government at different levels. This is important to ensure that they

understand the PRF and they can support the work and follow up on the work after the project's closure. The English version is also prepared for the additional requirement in each mission, while an official Semi-Annual Report and the Annual Progress Report are prepared in accordance with the timeline as mentioned in POM, for the Semi-annual report to be submitted by August 15, and for the Annual Progress Report to be submitted by February of each year. The English Report is applied with the structure of the report which aims to capture all key data and information that support the target of PRF III AF and also lessons learned that would apply to the new project “CLEAR”.

3.3.2.3 SHG and VSMC Evaluation

SHG Evaluation: PRF conducted periodic performance evaluation of 968 SHGs that received seed grant (2020-2022) by applying 10 criteria for scoring each activity (see annex), it is found that 499 out of 968 SHGs (about 51.5%) that considered to be very good performance, while 469 SHGs (48.5%) that are Good to medium performance thus they still needed to get some support from PRF even we move to the 2nd batch villages.



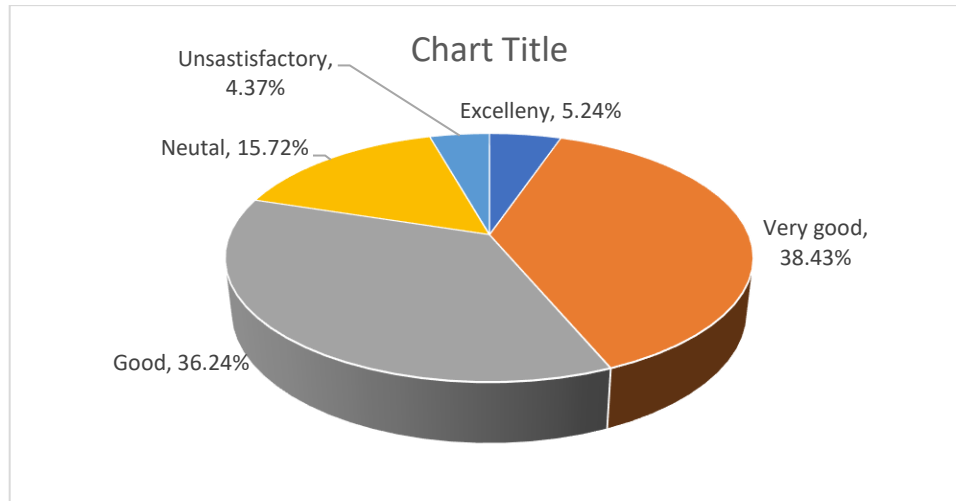
Lessons learned of 968 SHGs performance evaluation:

- The Planning and Implementation of SHG's activities in the 1st batch villages, PRF should consider representative of them with the best performance that can be a model or platform that other villages can learn from, we proposed to get an experience of some villages at La district in Oudomxay province.
- Cross visit to the successful village(s) is regarded as breaking through traditional mindset and practical event is essential learning that inspires discourage villagers to follow successful model families. In addition, the livelihood development of community must be referred to its potential production skills that can be met with market demands and in parallel to sustainable natural resource management.
- The groups with educated members are indicated with better performance by comparing with uneducated one.
- The capacity building is regarded as sustainable development, enabling the changes include traditional income generation activities, applying technical – production orientation, linkage with market demand. With all these initiatives, the project should create condition for the villagers to be aware with the concept of self-help, self-sufficiency, and self-reliance.

VSMC Performance Evaluation: By the end of 2022, the VSMC capacity assessment had been carried out, to assess whether those VSMC can manage the work without supporting by YGs and project staff, in which 100 VSMC or 43.67% is excellence and very good performance, 83 VSMC

or 36.26% is good, while there are 46 VSMC (20.09%) are considered to be neutral and weak performance, in this case, we proposed the district team to get back and recheck activities of those VSMC as to find appropriate mechanism to strengthen them before moving to 2nd batch village.

Figure 2: The VSMC performance evaluation in the 1st batch village



Mostly, the questions to ask the VSMC in each village about their capacity to do the work without supporting from YGs, including the capacity of organize monthly meeting, loan management (loan taken, repayment, dividend, book keeping), investment plan, training to member, etc. Based on the random checked of the internal evaluation, we observed that to handle the full responsibility of VSMC, it required to have educated person to support the work, while in some ethnic minority groups villages, it was hard to find literate person to fulfil the VSMC task, even, we found that they have been doing well for their livelihood activities. Thus, it would propose to apply lessons learnt of 1st village to apply for 2nd batch and also for CLEAR project.

3.3.2.4 Other works/evaluation

1. In 2018: The *Technical, Utilization, and Beneficiary Satisfaction Assessment* conducted in mid-2018 indicated that 92% of the sub-projects were in good condition (with 8% rated as fair). In terms of the beneficiary satisfaction, 90% of the community beneficiaries located in the thirty-six villages covered by the survey were fully satisfied with the technical and financial support they have received. In additional, groups discussed the planning process and the results of planning, focusing on whether the infrastructure selected for the sub-project corresponded to the priorities identified in the Village Development Plan and addressed the needs of the community. 95% of groups were fully satisfied with the planning process and its results, with only 5% of groups indicating that they were marginally satisfied.

2. In 2021, the Final External Evaluation of PRFIII (FEE) funded by SDC: To present the outcome of the project, it is required to have the project's impact evaluation, using both quantitative survey methods and qualitative techniques. This evaluation highlighted that:

1) **Relevance:** The project is highly relevant in general and in particular to context through all relevant GoL strategies in effect. It is also relevant to quality of design since the design is effective in implementing GoL strategies and international aid context, it could however have been designed to focus more on prevention of the risk of long term social and environmental impact from the various interventions rather than only alleviating immediate impact.

2). **Coherence:** The project is coherent with NSEDP and DSEDP and Sam Sang, It is also coherent with WB's CPF and CPS, SDC development strategies and EU's EDC and PDA- Project Development Assistance It is also coherent with beneficiaries need through the use of VDP, CDD and Community Force Account (CFA).

3). **Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of delivery of PDO and results is documented to exceed the target set for all indicators, Management effectiveness is reflected in the results obtained by the project, their timeliness and quality and by the extended documentation thereof obtained from the MIS.

4). **Efficiency:** Beneficiary satisfaction with the modalities and procedures is good. Cost effectiveness is enhanced by CFA. Timeliness of Donors disbursement was good and GoL contribution is completed even delay.

5). **Impact:** The impact of PRF III activities is seen as highly positive for -and by- the beneficiaries. This is credited to a strategy of combined interventions related to Governance (VDP, between others) with interventions increasing access to basic social infrastructure and services in an inclusive manner and with attention to minimizing detrimental environmental impact.

6). **Sustainability:** The sustainability of the results of the project⁴ is good although RMG need for further material and salary input may not, in every village, be fulfilled by local govt support and community contribution, lastly, the sustainability of PRF as a GoL entity, however, although facilitated by proven modalities and procedures and by experienced staff, will still depend on financing from non-GoL sources which may deplete.

In addition, the FEE team also analyzed the outcomes of PRF III in SWOT table that we can easily find the strength, weakness, opportunity and treat of PRF for more than 17 years of project implementation that would apply for a new project in Laos (See the Final Report of FEE).

3. **In 2022:** The TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT of PRF III (2017-2021), which has completed its final inspections, a total of 1,458 SPs, in TOR, The assessment focuses on the top 3 types of SPs per project (as a proportion of PRF III expenditures) and measure: (i) their technical quality and sustainability; (ii) their outcomes and any other data necessary for conducting an economic analysis of this infrastructure; and (iii) for a maximum of 30 SPs conduct an assessment of the planning process and community mobilization procedures. The outcomes of this evaluation found that the overall, **50% of the sub-projects were assessed as Good with 43% assessed as Fair** and only a small 7% were Poor. The firm stated that irrigation and building sub-projects tend to have a higher proportion of Goods, while the water supply systems have almost equal proportion of goods and fair. The roads have a majority in fair condition as roads require machinery input for periodic maintenance as most of the road sub-projects inspected are over 3 and 4 years. Thus, it is important to follow up and impact of O&M training and the active of O&M committee that would plan an active role for the long-term use of sub-project provided by PRF.

⁴ in broad sense: Infrastructures, VDP, VIT, RMG

In addition, there are three new evaluations recommended by the mission in June 2022, which proposed PRF conduct the SHG and PG assessment, Nutrition assessment, and Beneficiary Assessment, these assessments are carried out by external consultants that are under processing, and expect to present the result during MTR. We expected that the outcomes of these evaluation would provide experience and lesson learned for the CLEAR Project as well as 2nd Batch village's implementation.

3.3.3 Procurement

During 2020-2022, the procurement team performed good progress of work; the project's procurement performance of the project remains Satisfactory. The PRF procurement unit has so far completed the procurement of 177 packages (80.45%) out of a total of 220 packages. The mission in June 2022 noted that: (1) the procurement unit conducted a procurement training program for PRF District Procurement Assistants to strengthen and enhance the knowledge of procurement, from 14-18 February 2022, (2) PRF had completed the preparation of the Sub-Project Procurement Plan under the IDA fund (173 sub-projects) and (3) PRF organized procurement training by district procurement assistants for Village Procurement Team before starting the procurement process at sub-project level.

PRF has scaled up to support all activity implementation in the 4 Provinces. Various supplies, vehicles, and others related to requirements have been procured and provided in time as planned. During this reporting period, the Procurement Unit had accomplished the following activities:

A. Central level

1. Completed the procurement of Office IT Equipment (photocopiers, laptops, printers and etc.) for which the contract was signed on 4 January 2022 with LT Computer Co.; Ltd. and the equipment was received on 12 January 2022;
2. Completed the procurement process of record books printing under livelihood activities for the community, for which the contract was signed on 12 July 2022 with Lao Inter Media Printing, and the books are expected to be received at the end of December 2022;
3. Completed the procurement process of cooking books and record books printing under nutrition activities for the community, for which the contract was signed on 29 September 2022 with Chalern Sign and Printing House, and the books were received on 14 November 2022;
4. Completed the procurement process of 2 pick-up trucks for which the contract was signed on 20 September 2022 with Lao Toyota Service Co.; Ltd. and the trucks were received on 14 October 2022;
5. Completed the procurement process of 80 motorbikes provide to PRF Young Graduate staff for which the contract was signed on 30 September 2022 with NCX Co.; Ltd. (New Chip Xeng) and the motorbikes were received at the end of December 2022.
6. Completed the procurement process of operation & maintenance books, guidelines, forms and posters printing to support sub-project under the engineering division, for which the contract was signed on 02 November 2022 with Lao Inter Media Printing and the printing books were received on 23 November 2022;
7. Completed the procurement process of cooking sets for 238 villages for the community under nutrition activities, for which the contract was signed on 25 November 2022 with Vana Trade Kitchen Products and Agricultural Equipment, and the goods are expected to be received in the middle of January 2023.

B. Procurement of Consulting Services at the Central Office

1. Completed the re-procurement process of consulting service for Designer for Development of Cookbooks for which the contract was signed on 10 February 2022 with Dr. Litthiphone Oula;
2. Completed the procurement of international consultant service for the environment and social document preparation for the CLEAR project through direct selection procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank, for which the contract was signed on 08 November 2022 with Mr. Tual Anh Le;
3. Completed the procurement of national consultant service for environment document preparation for the CLEAR project through direct selection procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank, for which the contract was signed on 08 November 2022 with Ms. Chansouk Insouvanh;
4. Completed the procurement of national consultant service for social document preparation for CLEAR project through direct selection procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank, for which the contract was signed on 08 November 2022 with Ms. Khamtsy Khansamai;
5. Conduct the procurement process of consulting service for conducting the assessment of performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Producer Groups (PGs) under livelihood division for CLEAR project through direct selection procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank for which the contract is expected to be signed by the middle of January 2023;
6. Conduct the procurement process of consulting service for conducting a small-scale study for assessing the PRF III - AF nutrition activities for CLEAR project through direct selection procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank for which the contract is expected to be signed by the middle of January 2023;
7. Conduct the procurement process of consulting service for Beneficiaries' Satisfaction Evaluation through CQS procurement method and subject to post review by the World Bank for which the contract is expected to be signed by the middle of January 2023.

C. Procurement related to the Sub-projects' implementation

1. Completed a preparation of the Sub-Project Procurement Plan under the IDA fund (173 sub-projects);
2. Organized the procurement training by district procurement assistants for Village Procurement Team before starting the procurement process of sub-projects regarding the quotation opening, evaluation process, contract preparation and contract management;
3. Signed the agreement between PRF and VIT. After the training, the Village Procurement Team completed preparing the procurement documents (Request for Quotation);
4. District Procurement Assistants assisted the Village Procurement Team to conduct the quotation opening and evaluation process for the sub-projects signed contract with suppliers or service providers.

D. Training

1. Conducted the procurement training program for PRF District Procurement Assistants to strengthen and enhance their knowledge of procurement especially the rules, regulations and procedure for procurement of CFA approach during 14-18 February 2022;
2. Organized procurement training by district procurement assistants for Village Procurement Team (VIT) before starting the procurement process of sub-project regarding quotation opening, evaluation process, contract preparation, and contract management.

E. Systematic Tracking of Exchanges in Procurement (STEP)

1. Uploaded all necessary information and data of completed procurement activities into the STEP system.

3.3.4 Human Resources/Staffing

For AF coverage areas, only remaining 4 targeted Provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh and Xiengkhuang), a total of 199 positions in PRF; 84 women (42.21%), 76 ethnic (38.19%) of which 25 positions at the Central Office, 04 at the Provincial level, 40 at the district level, and 130 at the village level. Currently, female staff reaches 42.21 %, which is higher than the target of about 12.21% while ethnic group staffs show 38.19 % of the total staff. Of course, women and ethnic applicants are always encouraged to apply for all positions advertised by PRF. In addition, the Community Resource Persons (CRP) guidance will be developed and trained for PRF staff in the future.

Table 14 : Number of staff in all levels under the AF (December 2022)

Number of PRF III_AF IDA Fund Staff				Ethnic Group		
Level	Total staff	Male	Female	Total	Female	% by level
Centre level	25	20	5	2	0	8.00
Provincial level	4	4	0	1	0	25.00
District level	40	28	12	8	1	20.00
Village level	130	63	67	65	29	50.00
Total	199	115	84	76	30	38.19
Percentage	100%	57.79	42.21	38.19	39.47	

Source: PRF Human Resource Unit, December 2022

During the Mission in June 2022, it also emphasized on the need to have community facilitators (young graduates) speak the local languages, as relevant, to strengthen community engagement and participation. It was agreed that the criteria for selecting young graduates will be revised in the Project Operation Manual to ensure they can speak the local languages where it is appropriate. Based on this recommendation, PRF has reviewed the YG selection criteria for Knowledge of ethnic language, which was increased to 15 points from 5 points by reducing 5 points from previous knowledge related to the assignment criteria and 5 points from the local people, which is attached herewith for your information and comments the setting evaluation criteria and sub-criteria for Young Graduates position selection. This would be only the tool that we can hire local staff who can communicate and understand the local situation that would help to support the PRF's activities at the community level, this revision criteria would submit to the World Bank for no objection by July 4, 2022.

COMPONENT 4: LIVELIHOOD AND NUTRITION

In PRFIII AF this component has become main activity of the project, which captures 54% of total budget, to implement following activities: 1). Establishment of SHGs, PGs and FNGs; 2). Production of SBCC materials with focus on agriculture-nutrition links and gender equality, including community video production; 3). FNG meetings, group food processing with time saving mill technology, cooking and home visits; 4). SHG loans to members for livelihood investments; 5). Training of SHG members in agriculture and livestock techniques; and 5). Establishment of home

nutrition gardens of FNG members and garden visits. From 2020-2022, several activities had been implemented with a good progress that can highlight as below:

4.1. Livelihood

One of the livelihood activities in the 1st batch village is the establishment of village Self Help Group (SHG), which aims to provide an opportunity for the poor community (women and ethnicity) to access to the loan, instead of taken loan from the bank and other sources, as following objectives:

- ✓ Promote unity, collective action, group cohesion and taking decision jointly, where at least one time per month that they conduct a meeting.
- ✓ Sensitive towards fellow members, help each other and solve problems collectively, as discuss among members to support the poorer person first.
- ✓ Promote financial discipline such as regular saving, inter-lending and on time repayment, PRF provided seed grant for the 1st Batch village LAK14.47 billion and member saving LAK 3.19 billion towards their regular savings. Where member can take loan for livelihood and for emergency case.
- ✓ Promote economic independence and ensure improvement in living conditions, where members can get income and sustainable livelihood activities.
- ✓ Reducing poverty through collective endeavors, stable income sources and food security.

From 2020-2022, the Full Team Human Resources of Livelihood Sector under PRF III- AF have been actively performing their duties as mentioned in ToRs to follow up and support the work in 229 villages in the first batch village, where a total of 972 SHG had been established. These SHGs have mobilized 12,146 members⁵ (one member represents one household), out of which 11,182 members are women (which is 92.06% of total members), 7,303 members from ethnic households (which is 60.12% of total households), and 7,009 members are from poor and poorest households (which is 57.70% of total households). The SHG is regarded as institution of poor households, where all members can share their social issues and production experiences. The establishment of SHGs aims to provide an opportunity for the poor community (women and ethnicity) to access to the loan, instead of taken loan from the bank and other sources. By the end of December of 2022, we found that only 11,586 active members out of 12, 146 members, meaning there are 560 inactive member that they dropped out from SHG's activities.

The project has successfully formed 229 VSMCs comprising 1,355 members (updated data in 2022), out of which 1,083 members are women (which is 80% of total VSMC members and is 15% higher than the target i.e., 65%). The VSMC has 794 members who are from ethnic groups, which is 58.64% of total VSMC members. These VSMC members are key community resource persons to handle the work after ending PRF, thus, those people are representative of villagers who have received modular training on SHG and VSMC functioning through systematic training modules through project staff in the classroom and field demonstrations.

As of December 2022, PRF could fundamentally achieve some indicators such as 91% female SHG members, 80% female VSMC, in the 1st round of loan covered 86% from total SHG members, it is

⁵ We follow up the total registered member from 2020-2022, as December 2022, there are only 11,586 active members out of 12, 146 members.

nearly 60% of taken loan members could repay principal and interest and repayment rate is 58%; the repayment rate of seed grants is nearly 50% meanwhile repayment rate of saving loan is 60%, the total incomes have been generated LAK 14 billion from 12 types of IGA. This indicates that SHG members actively manage savings and seed grants in investment of livelihood activities for poverty reduction that can declined poverty at household level.

In addition to SHG formation, more than 300 potential SHG members have been mobilized and selected for establishment of Producer Groups. The total 29 Producer Groups out of 25 PGs as planned for this year were established with 297 members belonging to pig raising groups, weaving groups, poultry raising, fish pond, goat raising, chicken raising and cattle raising.

Table 15: Number of SHGs numbers and loan taken by province of December 2022

Provinces	# Districts	Sum of #vill	Sum of #VSMC	Sum of #Active SHG	#SHG members	# Active SHG members	# Loans taken
Huaphanh	4	64	408	272	3307	3089	4128
Oudomxay	2	19	114	95	1010	1010	518
Phongsaly	4	81	478	344	4563	4333	3273
Xiengkhuang	2	65	355	261	3266	3154	2415
Grand Total	12	229	1,355	972	12,146	11,586	10,334

Source; PRF Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2023

In 2nd Batch village: In August 2022, the livelihood team started to mobilize to form Self-helped Group n 2nd Batch of target village of 237 villages in 12 existed districts and 979 SHGs have been completely established with 3057 SHG Committees and 13,305 members. In parallel, the implementation of livelihood activities in the 1st batch of 229 villages of have been significantly produced progressive results. The additional seed grants (increase US\$80 for each member in the first batch) of USD 0,93 millions have been successfully disbursed to 229 bank accounts for next coming round of loan disbursement to SHG members who were missed for the first round of loan in 2021-2022.

Table 16: Number of SHGs and the numbers of members in 2nd Batch of 237 target village

Provinces	# Districts	Sum of #vill	Sum of #VSMC	#Active SHG	#SHG members	# Active SHG members	# Savings LAK (000)	Amount of saving LAK (000)
Huaphanh	4	74	NA	304	304	3869	226,829	6,000
Oudomxay	2	20	NA	95	95	1185	51,655	
Phongsaly	4	79	NA	354	354	4819	263,173	8,500
Xiengkhuang	2	64	NA	226	226	3432	215,969	
Grand Total	12	237		979	979	13,305	757,402	14,500

Source: PRF MIS, December 2022

4.1.1 SHG Saving and loan taken

From 2020-2022, the performance of 12,146 members (11,586 active member) of 972 SHG in 229 villages. The SHG members have mobilized savings which increased from LAK 1.8 billion in December 2021 to LAK 4.3 billion (> LAK 2.5 billion) in December 2022. The average savings per member is more than LAK 220,000 and the size of monthly savings slightly increases to LAK12, 500/person/month compared to a minimum size of saving LAK 5,000/person/month. This indicates

that members have learned to deduct their incomes for savings within their groups and understand about benefits that they could get from savings.

The accumulated loan taken number 2020-2022 as the end of December 2022 at 10,334 loan taken times, at the total of LAK 19.72 billion, from which LAK 16.31 billion from Seed Grant (8020 member) and LAK 2.39 billion from Saving (1932 member), and LAK 1.02 Billion from FRFIII (382 member). Looking at the repayment which is LAK 9.64 billion about 48.86% of total loan, the team encouraged the local staff to follow up the repayment status with VSMC and suggest them to up data in the system.

Looking at the loan taken by type, at 7,617 loans taken for animal raising (73%), 911 loan taken for handicraft (8.8%), 888 loan taken from saving for emergency case of family (8.6%), 683 taken for cropping (6.6%), and 235 for small business and service, as detail in table below:

Table 17: Loan Taken by mail type 2020-2022 in the 1st batch village (unit: LAK)

Type of activities	# Loan Taken	Percentage	Loan Amount	Repayment	Repayment interest
Small Trade &Service	237	2.3%	856,780,000	445283000	37060500
Cropping	683	6.6%	1,267,050,000	597,590,000	44,316,000
Emergency	886	8.6%	710,550,000	584,132,000	16,893,000
Handicraft	911	8.8%	1,436,980,000	712,130,000	55,706,500
Animal Raising	7617	73.7%	15,457,683,000	7,301,951,000	801,007,840
Grand Total	10,334	100.0%	19,729,043,000	9,641,086,000	954,983,840
				48.87%	

Source: PRF MIS Database, December 2022

PRF Seedgrant: A total of LAK 17.32 billion to 229 VSMC village bank account that would be used as revolving fund for all SHG member at their village, where all members have the right to take loan for their livelihood activities, under agreement during the SHG and VSMC meetings.

From 2022-2022, VSMC released a seed grant loan of LAK 17,33 billion⁶ to 8,402 SHG members; 7,891 females (93.9%). Until now, the cumulative number of SHG members who took 1st round of seed grant loans is 7,751 members (66.89%). Due to the limited budget that VSMC could not release the loan to all member, until the 1st loan taker could repay the loan. In December 2022, only LAK 8,21 Billion (47.37%) and interest repayment LAK 858,579,340, since the 1st loan taken took place during 2022, therefore, the repayment will take place during the first quarter of 2023, that PRF will work closely with local staff and VSMC to find the progress of repayment. Detail of loan status of PRF Seedgrant in table below:

Table 18: Loan taken from SHG Seedgrant from 2020-2022 (Unit: LAK)

⁶⁶ Where LAK 16,310,496,000 from AF Seedgrant (8020 member), and LAK 1,023,760,000 from PRFIII Seedgarnt (382 member)

Type of activities	# Loan Member	Amount Loan	Repayment	Repayment Interest
Small Trade and Service	172	719,080,000	366,580,000	30,431,000
Cropping	497	1,003,100,000	452,140,000	37,259,000
Handicraft	698	1,236,100,000	603,400,000	47,265,000
Animal Raising	7012	14,318,976,000	6,749,682,000	742,374,340
Total	8402	17,334,256,000	8,211,802,000	858,579,340
			47.37%	

Remark: Due to high inflation rate between 2021 and 2022, the prices of all production inputs having significantly increased and impacted from devaluing of the LAK currency, SHG members could not spend loan money for those production inputs as mentioned in the initial production plan. Therefore, VSMC and all members in 229 villages decided to increase the average size of loan from US\$ 120 or LAK 1.18 million to LAK 2.1 to 2.5 million as the first loan. This is a reason to request to increase US\$80 for each member in the 1st Batch village and adjust to US\$ 200 per member in 2nd batch village.

Loan taken from SHG Saving:

From 2020-2022, the setting up of the SHG saving aims to provide opportunity for poor people to access to loan in emergency situation (45.9% of saving loan taken), in addition, to ensure the dividend provide after they received income from interest rate, and also released for livelihood activities if the saving amount is big enough. During this period, the cumulative loan takers from saving reached 1,932 members, and the accumulative lending amount reached LAK 2.39 billion covering 55.58% of the total savings (LAK 4.3billion). VSMC could collect repayment LAK 1.42 billion (59.68% of total loan amount) and the cumulative repayment is LAK 96.4 million. This shows that members started to understand the benefit of savings for internal lending which not only for emergency, but also for investment of livelihood activities for generating incomes and they can benefit from the annual dividend based on their savings proportion.

Table 19: Loan taken from SHG Saving 2020-2022 in 1st batch village

Type of activities	# Loan Member	Percentage	Amount Loan	Repayment	Repayment Interest
Small Trade & Service	65	3.4%	137,700,000	78,703,000	6,629,500
Cropping	186	9.6%	263,950,000	145,450,000	7,057,000
Handicraft	213	11.0%	200,880,000	108,730,000	8,441,500
Animal Raising	605	31.3%	1,138,707,000	552,269,000	58,633,500
Emergency	886	45.9%	710550000	584132000	16,973,000
Total	1932	100.0%	2,394,787,000	1,429,284,000	96,404,500
				59.68%	

Source: PRF MIS, December 2022

The SHG saving provided a good opportunity for the poor family to access to fund during their difficulties situation, especially, during the sickness, emergency case, food consumption, broken machine, etc, please see detail in table below:

Table 20: Loans taken for the emergency case 2020-2022

Emergency case				
Education	184	111,150,000	97,550,000	5,527,000
Sickness	507	371,500,000	293,832,000	7,884,000
Funeral ceremony	6	6,700,000	6,300,000	30,000
fixing machine	1	500,000	500,000	-
Fixing motorbike	4	2,100,000	800,000	15,000
Rice consumption	112	78,300,000	61,850,000	1,398,000
House repair	1	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
harvest	71	139,300,000	122,300,000	2,039,000
	886	710,550,000	584,132,000	16,893,000

Source: PRF MIS, December 2022

4.1.2 SHG member incomes and livelihood status

As of Dec 2022, more than 80% SHG members (9, 446 out of 10,334 loans taken) who took loans since late 2020-2022 have been able to generate incomes from IGAs including animal raising, cropping and planting, handicraft, and small business. Where the animal raising (chicken, goat, duck, fish, pig) becomes the first rank of livelihood activities, presented at 7617 out of 9,446 loans taken, which is 80.62% livelihood activities, followed handicraft/weaving (911 loans or 9.64%), planting/cropping 683 loans (7.23%); and small business 237 loans (2.5%). The detail of loan taken for income generation activities summarized in table below:

Table 21: SHG members' livelihood activities and Status (unit: LAK)

Type of Activity	#Loan taken	Loan amount	Loan Repayment	Interest Repayment
1. Animal Raising	7617	15,457,683,000	7,301,951,000	801,007,840
Chicken	1916	3,131,381,000	1,772,289,000	160,797,480
Goat	722	1,648,850,000	879,735,000	98,991,600
Duck	530	744,358,000	352,908,000	35,205,960
Fish	214	537,400,000	292,200,000	30,469,500
Pig	4235	9,395,694,000	4,004,819,000	475,543,300
2. Handicraft	911	1,436,980,000	712,130,000	55,706,500
Weaving	911	1,436,980,000	712,130,000	55,706,500
3. Planting	683	1,267,050,000	597,590,000	44,316,000
Fruit tree	21	22,550,000	11,550,000	608,500
Mushroom	3	4,200,000	1,000,000	200,000
Banana	2	5,400,000	5,400,000	462,000
Ginger	30	34,800,000	30,800,000	1,628,000
Corn	573	1,108,500,000	505,740,000	38,625,000
Vegetable	20	38,600,000	15,600,000	1,610,000
Casava	7	14,500,000	500,000	422,500
Broom	4	4,500,000	-	-
Galangal	13	21,000,000	17,000,000	510,000
Anima grass	10	13,000,000	10,000,000	250,000

4. Small business	237	85,6780,000	44,528,3000	37,060,500
small vender /trade	190	639080000	252583000	31712500
Vegetable & Animal trade	43	208,700,000	183,700,000	5,198,000
Tailor	2	7,000,000	7,000,000	70,000
Broom selling	2	2,000,000	2,000,000	80,000
Total	9,448	19,018,493,000	9,056,954,000	938,090,840
			47.6%	

Source: PRF MIS System, December 27, 2022

4.1.3 Village SHG Fund Dividend

Through operating during fiscal year from 2021-2022, more than 80% of the Village SHG Fund in 229 village have been able to provide the dividend money that are annual financial performance of VSMC. The gross income of the fund are the repayments of the interest occurred from seed grant loans and saving loans, then are deducted by annual expenditure and remained for net income for dividend money. The total dividend money is LAK 1 billion versus saving Lak 3,9 billion or 26,56%. The outputs from the 1st dividend round have been satisfied by SHG members, the returning rate from saving with Village SHG Fund is 10%-12% which is higher than the interest rate of saving account with commercial bank is only 5-6% per year and also proving the better results of financial performance of VSMC.

Table 20: Summary of distribution of dividend money by District (Lak)

No.	Districts	# Village SHG Funds	# Village SHG Funds with Distributed Dividend Money	Percentage	Details of Incomes LAK		
					Gross Income	Expenditures	Net income for Dividing
1	Saphane	15	5	33.33%	24,547,000	4,106,000	20,441,000
2	Bountai	15	14	93.33%	76,908,000	3,997,000	72,911,000
3	Khua	27	27	100.00%	107,323,500	9,092,000	98,231,500
4	Mai	24	22	91.67%	104,430,000	10,617,000	93,813,000
5	La	5	5	100.00%	30,077,000	930,000	29,147,000
6	Namoh	14	13	92.86%	95,505,500	3,683,500	91,822,000
7	Kham	29	17	58.62%	151,026,900	3,368,000	147,658,900
8	Nonghad	36	22	61.11%	133,253,000	3,448,000	129,805,000
9	Kuan	15	15	100.00%	49,914,500	700,000	49,214,500
10	Huameuang	22	21	95.45%	189,050,000	-	189,050,000
11	Sone	4	3	75.00%	48,278,000	-	48,278,000
12	Samtay	23	22	95.65%	65,856,500	1,723,500	64,133,000
	Total	229	186	81.22%	1,076,169,900	41,665,000	1,034,504,900

Source: PRF MIS System, December 27, 2022

4.1.4 Production Group Performances

PRF planned to establish 100 production groups in 12 target districts of 4 provinces which is average 25 Production Group per province. As of December 2022, more than 300 potential SHG members have been mobilized and selected for establishment of Producer Groups. The primary 29 Producer Groups (29%) were established with 297 members have been established and trained on pig raising groups, weaving groups, poultry raising, fish pond, goat raising, chicken raising and cattle raising.

Producer Groups (PGs). The main objective of establishing PGs is to achieve increased income and employment opportunities of the poor by aggregating their quality production in a demand driven manner. The specific objectives are:

- To aggregate rural producers into viable economic groups which will have enhanced access to resources (including financial, capital, labour, raw materials etc.), information, technology and markets on a sustainable basis;
- To strengthen capacities of producers for production of quality produce, aggregation of produce, local level value addition, strengthen bargaining power in the market and gets better price;
- To promote PG members to access funds from their own SHGs to invest in production cycle of PG commodity to produce quality production that increases income.

Table 22: Number of PGs and member in 1st batch village

Provinces	Districts	# Village	#PGs	#PG Member	Female	Ethnic
Xiengkhuang	Kham	8	14	155	146	20
Oudomxay	La	3	4	27	5	27
	Namor	3	11	115	87	0
Total		14	29	297	238	47

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

For capacity buildings to Production Groups and members especially technical trainings on selected commodities such poultry raising, pig raising and goat raising as well as management trainings have been provided in those villages and districts including following up. The individual 29 Community Livelihood Investment Fund value have been developed by 29 PGs and have been submitted to PRF for further supports. Each CLIF will be financed 3,000 USD which is increased from initial fund of 2,000 USD. The total request of CLIF is 87,000 USD will be transferred to bank account of VSMC of 14 respect target villages by Jan 2023. All 29 Production Groups have been classified by 6 types of commodities which is shown below.

Table 22: Number of PGs and member in 1st batch village by types of commodities

Districts	# Village	#PGs	#PG Member	Poultry	Pig	Goat	Fish	Cattle	Weaving
Kham	8	14	155	3	6	2			3
La	3	4	27	1	7	1		1	
Namor	3	11	115				1		4
Total	14	29	297	4	13	3	1	1	7

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, December 2022

The establishment of production groups in two districts of La and Namor, 15 production groups mobilized fund from members for their running cost in amount of LAK 465 million and those 15 production groups have been able to access bigger loan from state bank “Nayobay Bank” amount of LAK 12 million with small interest of 6% per year. This is the results of cooperation framework of 4 credit partnership initiative including PRF, Nayobay Bank, Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperative and Department of Rural Development.

Some Challenges of the Livelihood

It is coming with the mid-term period of PRF III AF, the livelihood activities have been taking place; however, there are some challenges as following:

It is coming with the mid-term period of PRF III AF, the livelihood activities have been taking place; however, there are some challenges as following:

- ✓ Lack of experienced Staff: District PRF Officers and YGs should focus on training, learning by doing both theoretical and practical works.
- ✓ Currently Holding Qualification of PRF’s Staff vs ToR’s Requirement.
- ✓ Willingness vs Forced Performances.
- ✓ Ambitious targets to achieve vs Available Resources that we are not able to reach the target, but we can clarify it during the MTR period.
- ✓ Enthusiasm vs Reluctances of Communities to change.
- ✓ Seed Grants vs Free Money that we have to explain and make sure that all members and local authority understand.
- ✓ Literacy and Numeracy for bookkeeping and accounting that takes time to understand, because, in some villages, they have limited human resource (literacy) but they have doing well for livelihood for example animal raising and cropping, just they require to have some technical support from outside.
- ✓ Income vs Subsistence should have a look at the capacity of VSMC, weak SHG members and also support from the concerned sector at the district level.
- ✓ Survival vs Commercial Attitudes which is different oriented for project implementation.

4.2 Nutrition Work.

PRF aims significantly to improve dietary diversity in pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged 6-23 months remains a key nutrition objective. This is particularly about achieving adequate food production and consumption, emphasizing the first 1,000 days of life. To realize the nutrition objective, ‘Nutrition Enhancing Livelihood Development’ utilizes five pathways linking agriculture and nutrition: 1) increasing access to and availability of nutritious food, 2) increasing agricultural income, 3) improving women’s equality and women’s time use, 4) creating demand for improved nutritious and diverse foods, and 5) establishing social accountability mechanisms on nutrition-sensitive agricultural service delivery at the village level.

4.2.1 Farmer Nutrition Group meeting and cooking demonstration.

One of the main activities of the Farmer Nutrition Group (FNG) is the implementation of the FNG meetings and cooking demonstrations for direct beneficiaries such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children aged 6-23 months regularly in 12 target districts.

In the 1st batch, from 2020-2022, there are 249 FNGs in 231 villages with a total cumulative number of 18,037 FNG members which included 9,426 active FNG members and 8,611 previous FNG

members. For active FNG members, there are 5,418 direct beneficiaries (1,349 pregnant women; 910 lactating mothers, and 3,159 child-aged 6-23 months) and 4,008 FNG members are indirect beneficiaries (918 Child-aged 0-5 months and 3,090 mothers of Child-aged 6-23).

Table 23: Table of FNG members from 2020-2022

Provinces	Active FNG member	No. of HH	1	2	3	4	5	# Eligible FNG members (1+2+3)
			# PM	#LM (0-5 m)	#C (6-23 m)	# Mother of Child (6-23 m)	# C (0-5 m)	
Huaphanh	2,949	1,577	317	335	998	962	337	1,650
Huameuang	1,084	623	140	128	343	342	131	611
Kuane	506	260	52	60	175	161	58	287
Sone	264	143	21	24	97	97	25	142
Xamtay	1,095	551	104	123	383	362	123	610
Oudomxay	1,010	569	141	74	358	359	78	573
La	190	103	20	17	69	67	17	106
Namor	820	466	121	57	289	292	61	467
Phongsaly	2,652	1,465	358	248	902	896	248	1,508
Boontai	496	292	101	25	173	172	25	299
Khua	720	400	109	58	250	245	58	417
May	895	480	70	110	302	302	111	482
Samphanh	541	293	78	55	177	177	54	310
Xiengkhuang	2,815	1,649	533	253	901	873	255	1,687
Kham	1,235	707	217	120	394	383	121	731
Nonghed	1,580	942	316	133	507	490	134	956
Grand Total	9,426	5,260	1,349	910	3,159	3,090	918	5,418

Source: PRF Nutrition and Community Development Division December 2022

During this reporting period, the budget for supporting FNG cooking activities have been completely transferred to 12 districts, 4 provinces with a total of LAK 1,064,454,178 (US\$ 66,206) to be implemented in 231 villages, an average of about LAK 4,600,000 (US\$ 287) per village. As of December 2022, all 231 villages have been implementing FNG meetings and cooking demonstration activities as regular 1-3 times per week. There are a total of 13,787 FNG meetings from the beginning to December 2022 in which FNG members could produce 22,075 kg of pre-mix for their cooking activities and there is a total of cost meals for children aged 6-23 months up to LAK 634,012,966 which consists of 27.59% of community contribution and there is a total of cost meals for mothers up to LAK 728,743,891 which included 16.93% of community contribution.

Furthermore, there is a total of 1,728 kg of pre-mix that FNG members take home which comforts mothers to save their cooking time for their children. The training on Home Nutrition Garden (HNG) and Multimedia and Peer to Peer Learning (MMPL). Since signing a contract with the Lao Farmer Network and Click on November 1st, 2021 and the contract to support training programme was signed and implementation has been carried out until October 2022, the training has been conducted for DAFO, YGs, and FNG members in 4 target Provinces. The FNG members have selected as 3 FNG members per village for HNG, and 3 members for MMPL items per village, more than 1,386 staff members (all female) have been trained by Click from the beginning to December 2022. After MMPL training to the community Video volunteer different videos on home nutrition garden model families

and premix cooking processing have been made by community VDO team and shared in the village Facebook application where people can easily access.

Due to the lockdown still in practice at the beginning of the year 2022 during the Covid-19 pandemic, as of December 2021-March 2022, there were 65 FNGs (26%) of the 249 FNGs unable to implement their FNG activities regularly (especially target villages in Khua, Bountai district, Phongsaly Province, and Xamtai district Houaphanh Province). However, the FNGs have continued pre-mix cooking for their children at home as usual. (see Annex ???)

4.2.2 Home Nutrition Garden (HNG).

Base to the agreement with the Lao Farmer Network (LFN) on HNG to promote maternal and child nutrition was signed in November 2021; the **refreshing training and TOT for selected farmer master trainer** has been completely conducted for the village model farmers, DNOs and YGs, and DAFO staff in 12 districts in 4 target Provinces such as Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh and Xiengkhouang Province. The objectives of these activities are (1). to assess the performance of promoted crops; (2). to assess training methodologies and (3). to train DAFO staffs and model farmers on the promoted crops and basic skill of trainers with the total participants of 255 females.

Recommendations on HNG implementation in batch 1 villages.

1. For the upcoming dry season crop, it is recommended to continue the promoted crops such as Choy sum, morning glory, bush bean and wing bean. However, consider to provide a bigger portion of seeds. Each district shall also finalize their crop list based on the performance evaluation and propose to central level for procurement timely.
2. For living fence crops, consider to finalize the crop list per district, then provide support to model farmers to produce seedlings for distribution for the upcoming rainy season. PRF district office and arrange contract with selected model farmers who has potentials to set up nursery. This will shorten distance for transportation of seedlings as well as reduce damage from transporting.
3. For rainy season crops, continue to promote the crops that suggested in this report. However, consider to include new crops that proposed by the farmers. At least to test them out. The potential new crops include Chaya, Chayote and Sponge bourd
4. For training methodology, it is recommended to continue with the same curriculum, but consider to limited number of participants to not more than 5 villages or 15 participants to ensure quality of the training. In addition, consider identifying the right people to participate in the training. Criteria for the identification should be developed per district as well, however considering that it is expected that the trained farmers will be trainers in the future, not only that they will do their home garden, but they have responsibilities to share knowledge to other farmers and act as role model to other people.
5. In term of incentive to the model farmers. It is recommended to pilot an outcome-based incentive system in 2023. Each district shall develop expected outcomes and provide clear financial and non-financial incentives for the achievement of the outcome that targeted. CLICK will develop a concept note for this initiative submitting to PRF for consideration in 2023 work plan.
6. Consider to set up models of green houses for all year long gardening. In 2023, consider to pilot 6 model farmers in 2 villages per district. CLICK will include this service

4.2.2 Multi-media Peer Learning (MMPL).

Video creation is one of the essential supporting activities to lead to behavior change for FNG members and the community. The village volunteer trainees will help to do a village-led video production process to capture and disseminate success stories related to nutrition and local villagers' model families on premix cooking for children and home nutrition gardening. In addition, the produced Videos will be adapted with culturally appropriate ways of storytelling, and local languages.

As the end of December 2022, Video creation activity has been conducted by CLICK in order to provide additional training on video shooting and editing to the target farmers, to collect videos that made by the farmers, to set up and provide training to use Facebook page to share the produced videos by the farmers per village. A total of 603 people trained on home garden (out of 687) from 226 villages (target plan is 228 villages) or 87% completion against target of people trained.

In addition, there has been 193 Facebook pages created during the training (84% of total target villages, 76% of videos produced were on food processing. Some villages could not create the page because there was no internet connection. PRF local team to bring the phone to set up the page where internet is available. As a result, this activity provides a lot of strengths to village video volunteers as well as community such as many farmers have a basic skill of using mobile phone, they were able to learn quickly to use the promoted edition application, the target farmers are familiar in using Facebook, thus it was not so difficult for them to able to use Facebook page, PRF local team were capable in using Facebook and Kinemaster, thus they can help to set up Facebook page and train the target farmers for those that were not visited by CLICK as well as to provide technical supports to the longer run.

However, there is some challenges that we need to focus on adapting to meet the community condition such as Some trained farmers from the first training at village cluster level were no longer continue to responsible to the video, the mobile phone was not enough for all, a lack of incentive to the trained farmers to produce and share videos and so on.

4.2.3 Goat Dairy.

The objective of PRF investing in goat dairy is to support the nutrition target of the project which is to increase dietary diversity in child feeds for children 6-23 months of age. Adding dairy to a child's feed would mean increasing the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) score by using indigenous goat dairy of existing animals in PRF target villages would help village women to save money as buying commercial non-sweetened milk is not affordable regularly in particular among poor families.

For one-year goat dairy pilot, the PRF has been partnering with Laos Buffalo Dairy (LBD) – a social enterprise in Luang Prabang-, working in Xieng Khouang and Oudomxay Provinces across 5 villages and 17 households enrolled in farmer nutrition groups. The objective of this “MILK-COOK- EAT” pilot was to explore the potential of milking indigenous goats for local household food consumption, in particular to enrich child porridges for children 6-23months old. Innovative trials involved research (milking trends, analysis of nutrients and lactose, etc.), the development of a field manual, training tools, recipes and tasting sessions, and information, education and communication (IEC) tools. The trainings also covered aspects of improved animal husbandry and results from an analysis on household investment cost. Strong focus was placed that goat milk is sourced in a sustainable and cost effective manner from animals already owned by households. No new breeds and dairy goats were enrolled in this pilot.

During this reporting period, the Goat Dairy program has promoted in Namor district Oudomxay Province and in Kham District Xiengkhouang Province. The activity is in progress which Village Orientation Meeting and selection of target HHs have been conducted in 8 villages (3 villages of Namor District, ODX Province & 5 villages in Kham District, Xiengkhouang Province) with a total of 23 participants; 11 females who are from the DNOs, YGs, and FNG members villages. The demonstration of goat milking was also conducted by LBD in Louangprabang Province. So far, 14 new traditional Lao recipes incorporating goat milk for a healthier living have been developed which are supported by LBD and has been piloted for use in the target villages in 2022.

Challenges of Nutrition

- ✓ Some of PRF recipes have no or limited in local agriculture production that PRF should consider potential aspect at local level to handle this limitation.
- ✓ Limited of contribution from FNG members to support for the cooking meal because they are poor. This is challenging for the sustainability of FNG's activities after project ending, thus it is important to consider the contribution from villagers themselves or from income of SHGs and also local authority contribution...
- ✓ Premix take home by FNG members are less of motivation.
- ✓ Mini-Projector is not suitable for daytime use, it is proposed to conduct an impact evaluation of this equipment, before applying for this work in the second batch village.
- ✓ Changes in the nutritional behavior of the target group have not yet reached the target. It may take longer than expected.
- ✓ Lack of nutrition knowledge and experience and each NYG is responsible for more than 5 villages, which are different ethnic groups.
- ✓ Coordination with other convergent projects requires increased effort (working together at the village level, district quarterly meeting, using the same data, and standard of incentive compensation at community, etc) and for better sharing SBCC, cooking with using innovative, peer to peer learning approach.

The findings with recommendation for nutrition activities provided by Nutrition Expert from the World Bank (November 2022), as summarized bellows:

1. As the **technical training** for the ongoing activities has been mainly provided by service providers such as the Lao Farmer Network, Click, the Lao Farmer Network, and a Nutrition Consultant. It is very essential to identify the technical needs of field teams and provide refresher training (or sessions) during monthly or quarterly meetings to systematically increase the nutrition capacity for PRF district staff and NYGs.
2. **The new recipes/food processing** developed and trained by consultant in October 2022 was demonstrated in two villages and were welcomed by both women and children. It is important to disseminate the new recipes in local languages via MMPL for peer- learning
3. **The MMPL work:**
 - NYGs to enhance MMPL M&E
 - Identity best practice videos and disseminate among FNGs
 - PRF to document IT issues for phase 2 villages and CLEAR (e.g. procurement of IT equipment and so forth)
4. **Home Nutrition Garden:**

- It is found that the HNG support provided during the last year's dry season did not result into continued gardening practices of this year's dry season. The home garden visited did not show a continuation of the crops promoted in the last dry season
- Increase intensity of HNG support: Review of TA delivery needed (together with the upcoming training report from the Lao Farmer Network) and renew a contract with the Lao Farmer Network for supervision
- More timely HNG monitoring in order to encourage garden practices when needed (e.g. before dry season)

5. Nutrition Young Graduate

- The NYGs are the “heart” of the PRF system; during the field visit, the NYGs' workload was discussed showing that the schedule is packed, with hardly any space for troubleshooting or unforeseen events. It is recommended that PRF reviews the NYG schedule and tasks and identify opportunities to reduce their workload so that they have time to reflect on the activities and potentially provide troubleshooting if needed (eg. meal planning can be aggregated and take place for 1-2mo).

4.2.4 Community Development work

The VDP has been implemented in 231 villages under the PRF III AF, by applying the guideline/method of the participatory planning manual (PPM) from MPI. The implementation of AF is different from the previous PRF, where the VDPs were made only after the set-up of the completion SHGs and VSMC. Since the supporting's sub-project is focusing on livelihood links to nutrition activities, and CFA is used for a small-scale infrastructure implementation that utilizes agriculture's productivities as detailed in the project document.

The village development plan of PRF during the additional financing (AF) period (2020-2024) is different from the pattern of PRF in the past (2003-2019), before PRF used to support many key sectors of basic infrastructure (school, dispensary, water, rural road, irrigation, electricity, etc.). During the period of AF (2020-2023), due to the limitation of PRF's activities in comparing with the actual budget that the project can allocate, because the needs of villagers are higher than PRF can support, thus the village planning should be identified clearly on eligible sub-projects (road improvement, irrigation, etc) with minimum and maximum cost, while other sub-projects might be supported by other convergence projects and development partners in those target provinces. Therefore, the PRF team must explain clearly to the people as well as the local authority about the activities that can help and other reasons to maximize the participation of people and to guarantee their maximum benefits.

The planning of 2nd batch village (at least 234 villages) would base on the lessons learnt of the 1st batch which expects to be implemented in late 2022, which will use the experience from the 1st batch village.

The VDP of 2nd batch village (at least 237 villages) would base on the lessons learnt of the 1st batch which started implementing in last December 2022 and expected to completed in January 2023., then they can propose in district approval meeting. This is important to avoid the construction takes place in rainy season as it used to be in the 1st batch village.

Recommendation: The VDP under PRFIII AF is under nutrition work, for CLEAR this would propose to propose in component 1 that the community planning should take place.

CHAPTER IV: SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

4.1. Social and Environmental Safeguard Information

Safeguards policies are **essential tools to prevent and mitigate undue harm to people and their environment** in the development process. During project implementation, safeguards should help define measures and processes to effectively manage risks and enhance positive impacts. During this reporting period, PRF provided training on the environmental, social safeguard, and DRM impact assessment in the survey and design and all the forms which will be filled during the survey of 173 SPs. In general, there is no serious case occurring in the implementation, thus, in 2022, the overall performance on the safeguards remains positively satisfactory as feedback by the donor mission. Regarding the concern of PRF staff's health and safety issues, the Mission in June 2022, it is recommended that a simple OHS and road safety manual will be developed and shared with all PRF staff. However, more details will be discussed in the coming up MTR.

4.1.1. Social Safeguards Information

Under the PRF AF in the 4 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh, and Xiengkhuang), a total of 173 sub-projects had been approved and implemented. PRF has used the social safeguard as a key tool, particularly the Environmental and Social Safeguard Screening Checklist to identify impacts to the sub-projects and mitigating measures for the subprojects in the target villages. The training on the social safeguard management framework (focus on compensation policy) has been provided to PRF's engineering staff in case of infrastructure activities that would require land acquisition or affected structures.

As information was provided in the Annual Progress Report 2021 about the three target villages in Bountai District, Phongsaly Province, which need to resettle due to the planned Nam Leng Hydro-Power Development Project. These 3 communities will continue to receive livelihood and nutrition support from the project, but not the infrastructure investments. In addition, based on the Mission 2022, there are about six additional communities in the 2nd batch village which are in the same situation, needing to relocate due to Government of Laos hydropower projects. These communities will be included in the livelihood and nutrition programs, but will not receive infrastructure investments under PRF.

From 2020-2022, the survey and design of infrastructure activities have been completed without any severe issues found related to social and environmental safeguards in 173 target villages under the PRF AF support. The information on the social safeguard impact can be summarized below:

Table 24: Compensation and Resettlement, Social Safeguard (4 Provinces)

No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
1	Total target Province	4	
2	Total target District	12	
3	# Target Village in phase 1	231	
4	# Village Resettlement in target village phase 1 (In the list of GOL Plan)	3	*In Bountai district *Plan to move after HPC

No	Descriptions	Number	Remark
			*Not received for the activity
5	# Sub-Projects	173	Almost complete construction.
6	# Village beneficiaries	173	
7	# Household beneficiaries		
8	# Population beneficiaries	107,344	
9	# Female beneficiaries	52,469	
10	# Sub-project effected to Personal Property or Land (SP)	0	
11	# HHs were affected	307	
12	# Personal land were affected (m2)	0	
13	# Personal property were affected (#tree)	0	
14	# HHs affected < 5% compared to their holding land	0	
15	# HHs were affected <5% is voluntary contributed	0	
16	# HHs were affected <5% that they got compensated	0	
17	# HH affected > 5% compared to their land and have compensated	0	
18	# HH affected > 5% and got compensated	307	*Under GoL's management and responsibility, not PRF

Sources: *Nutrition and Community Development, June 2020*

4.1.2. Environmental Safeguards Monitoring

During the period of 2020-2022, the monitoring of environmental and social safeguards remains satisfactory as confirmed by different missions carried during the implementation of AF, since there is no serious issue occurred during this period. The training on Environmental and Social Safeguards has been provided for PRF staff as well as the Environmental and Social Safeguards documents including Safeguard Checklist, DRM, and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance Certificates for all SPs, identifying potential issues and seeking further details as required.

In addition, to ensure the proper safety of work, the PRF also coordinated and worked closely with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) on the process for obtaining a UXO clearance certificate even if the subprojects are small and focusing on rehabilitating and improving existing infrastructures for all 4 provinces.

For example, the review of the 173 SPs' construction under the PRF AF funded on the ESS and QAA has been taken action to ensure that all sub-projects comply with the guidelines stated in the Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework (ESMF) and all sub-projects have been reviewed through the review of the list of sub-projects vis-à-vis the Safeguard Checklist and results of discussion to ensure the safeness of each type of sub-projects, finding issues during reviewing documents, mitigation measurement, and planning for action to cope with issues found.

In addition, in the PRF III AF, the root causes analysis and safeguard corrective action plan (RCA/SCAP) to help prevent road accidents by PRF staff including YGs will also be further discussed for developing a road safety manual to share with all PRF staff and target community during travel time to support activity at community level.

- **The compliance of ESMF in the PRF III-AF**

The PRF orientation was organized in the 4 provinces and the district levels, mainly the consultation on the ESMF to the district's authority, PRF staff, young graduates and other development partners at the districts. The implementation of the PRF III-AF will complete in a cycle with following meetings: 1) District Orientation Meeting, 2) The Village Planning, 3) The Survey and Design of the Sub-projects, 4) Sub-project Implementation/monitoring, and 5) Operation and Maintenance training. (Details in the Annex 15)

Prior to implementation of the 173 sub-projects under the PRF III AF's funding both technical engineering review and Environmental and Social Safeguards review were conducted to ensure all SPs in Compliance to Environmental and Social Safeguards including accomplishment of Safeguard Checklist, DRM, and obtaining of UXO Clearance Certificates from NRA.

Table 25 UXO Clearance List as of June 2022

Provinces	Districts	No. of SPs	Certified by Villages authority	Under clearing UXO
Phongsaly	Mai	18	18	0
	Khua	20	19	1
	Samphan	11	11	0
	Boountai	11	11	0
Oudomxay	Lar	4	4	0
	Namor	11	11	0
Huaphan	Kuan	11	12	0
	Xamtai	17	17	0
	Huamueang	17	17	0
	Xone	4	4	0
Xiengkhuang	Nonghaed	27	27	0
	kham	22	9	13
Total:	12	173	160	14

Source: PRF Engineering Division, June 2022

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PRF III-AF has been implemented at 4 provinces, 12 districts, and there are 10 offices in 10 districts. The district Engineers and procurement assistance response on Environmental safeguards and the Districts Nutrition and Community Development responses on the Social Safeguard and the young graduate were trained and worked at the village level. In the 1st batch only 173 villages would receive at least one sub-project for each village (A total of 173 SPs), 58 villages did not receive the sub-project, that did not have the screening and assess the impacts. However, due to the financial capacity, all villages under PRF IIIAF can receive at least one sub-project, including those 58 villages (in 1st batch) the construction will take place and complete by December 2023 to early 2024.

In the 1st batch village, the implementation of 2 out of 173 SPs has been cancelled due to one SP construction site is close to the National Protected Areas and the 2nd SP having been funded by the GOL. The replaced sub-projects moved to the 2nd priority, with already properly reevaluated on the environmental impact. The screening was carried all sub-projects supported by PRF before implementation construction. And the design step will mitigate the impact on the sub-projects and inform the community to monitor during the construction and further consultation of the community and sectors.

The monitoring was taken action during the construction of 173 sub-projects in 4 provinces, PRF trained the community on the monitoring of the erosion at the construction site and site management. The checklist of ECoP was applied during this monitoring and PRF staff summarized data into the form for each work progress. Some sub-projects have been completed and prepared for training on operation and maintenance.

In the 2nd batch village, all villages will receive at least one SP because of the capacity of the remaining budget in the first component. Therefore, a total of all sub-projects will be planned and must be assessed for environmental and social impacts according to the prescribed form in early 2023.

4.2 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

During 2020-2022, the gender aspect has been mainstreamed in all PRF's activities, as of December 2022, the number of women and the ethnic people involved in the project activities is remarkably increased. For example, for the project staffing, For only PRFIIAF, a total of 199 positions of PRF staff (25 national staff, 4 provincial staff, 40 district staff, and 130 YGs), a number of 84 female staff reached 42.21 %, which is higher than the target of 12.21% (target 30%), while 76 ethnic group staffs show 38.19 % of the total staff, the high proportion of female staff from YGs, somehow, to encourage high number of women to work at rural areas is good, however, the rural road in mountainous areas seems to be difficult for traveling for working with high risk of traveling, thus, we can reconsider the appropriate solution and ensure the safeness of working, particularly, for the YG female. **At the community level**, 80 % of VSMC members (1,083) are women out of 1,355 VSMC members against the target of 65%, where 794 of VSMC members who are from ethnic groups, which is 58.64% of total. In addition, over 51.30 % of women are involved in VIT which is higher than the target (40%), over 93% of women are involved in decision making of sub-project selection, 94% of loan takers are women, etc. (see Annex 9)

4.3 Information Education and Communication (IEC)

In 2022, PRF still supports IECs as an important work for disseminating the PRF's activities implementation which included various information dissemination through different methods such as supporting news for many other newspapers, National Radio, Facebook, and in the PRF's website. In addition, it is also disseminated through brochures, magazines, calendars, technical manuals for other training, posters, videos of the PRF's implementation, and other short video clips of the community training to upload to the PRF's website.

During the year 2022, PRF has focused on producing various tools and information for disseminating news to the masses as follows:

- ✓ Wrote 62 news related with the PRF's activity implementation and disseminated on Facebook and PRF website, 2,028 Like clicks, 285 shares.

- ✓ Completed the January-March 2022 quarterly newsletter and disseminated it to various concerned parties.
- ✓ For livelihood activities: Completed the design of Ledger Book, Cash Book, Savings and Monitoring Book, Loan and Repayment Book, Monthly Balance Sheet, Monthly Income Report Book, Passbook, SHG Meeting Record Book and VSMC Meeting Book
- ✓ For Nutrition: Completed the design of Cooking Record Book, Monthly Registration Book, Storage Record Book, Cash Book, Poster of food flag, Poster of the mill usage, Poster of seasonal Calendar,
- ✓ Video clips about promoting the recipe No. 03 which includes ingredients of black sesame, mung bean, rice, sweet potatoes, milk for child aged 6-23 months at PhouLae village, Samtay district, Houaphanh Province.

4.4. Donor missions, cooperation and partnerships

4.4.1. Donor mission

In June 2022 to monitor the progress of AF, An Implementation Support Mission (ISM) for the Poverty Reduction Fund III (PRF III) was conducted by the World Bank (WB). This was the first face-to-face mission after two years due to the COVID19 situation. This mission is to follow up the overall progress of PRF III AF and also discussed about the preparation mission for the proposed new project “Community Livelihood Enhancement And Resilience (CLEAR) with following objectives:

The objectives of mission for PRF are to 1) review overall implementation progress since last ISM and plan for priority activities, 2) review the implementation of community infrastructure activities, 3) discuss the project’s monitoring and evaluation system and proposed measure for strengthening it, and 4) review the activities contributing to the World Bank Nutrition Convergence Initiative (NCI) under leadership of MPI.

For PRF, the mission states that the project remains on track to achieve its Project Development Objective (PDO) by the current closing date of June 30, 2024 and the progress towards the PDO was rated as satisfactory. An overview of the progress made against the PRF III targets as of the Implementation Support Mission (ISM) is presented, there are some lessons and suggestion that mention agreed action. In addition, the mission proposed to conduct the mid-term review for PRF III AF in early December 2022, thus, there are many key works that should be done and completed (Detailed in Aide-memoire of this mission).

In 2021, due to the restriction of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Virtual Mission of the implementation support for the Poverty Reduction Fund III AF project was conducted by the World Bank. The main objectives of the mission are to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in particular, the Poverty Reduction Fund team to 1) Review the progress to date on the activities of the project including the status of the agreed actions from the last implementation support mission in November 2020; 2) Assess the fiduciary, and environments, and social safeguards performance of the project; 3) Assess the key achievements and factors, and agree on an action plan to ensure smooth implementation of project activities; and 4) Discuss the implementation and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the World Bank-financed Nutrition Convergence projects. Overall, the mission was pleased with the overall early implementation of the PRF III AF as the PRF team managed to overcome delays due to the pandemic situation and the project continues to be on track to reach its project development objectives.

In 2020, even though the outbreak of COVID-19, PRF also worked closely with the World Bank Team and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), mostly, through a virtual mission. The main objectives of the meetings are: (a) to review progress in the implementation of existing PRF III including administration, finance, procurement, social and environmental issues in other actions, (b) to evaluate the performance of the PRF III with Ongoing projects such as infrastructure projects, SHGs, nutrition activities; (c) Evaluate the implementation of the activities of PRF III AF including staff recruitment, awareness-raising, training and pilot activities; And (d) to assess the status of activities under SDC's support in 6 provinces, but not included in the IDA-funded activities of the PRF III AF.

4.4.2. Cooperation and partnerships

Partnership and Cooperation with Convergence Program, which was financed by the World Bank, PRF attended different meetings (quarterly and semi-meetings) under the Nutrition Convergence, where all convergence project task teams (RRPM, HGNDP/HANSA, SWSSHP, and PRF), PMUs, and MPI Coordinators to update the implementation status of each project. During 2020-2022, PRF joined different meetings with all convergence projects. To follow up the progress of all projects under convergence programme. Therefore, the Nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions convergence will be coordinated in four key areas:

1. **Geographic convergence** of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in the same communities and households;
2. Use of common **Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) strategy, action plan, and tools** for consistent messaging;
3. **Leveraging** (use that already developed in order to achieve something new or better) **of each other's delivery platforms**, for example, pre-established community structures; and
4. Exploring of possibilities for **common monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Frameworks**.

In addition, the MPI also presented the Key findings Village Scorecard, in which sub indicators through more light on key issues as following:

- ✓ Availability of complete sets of SBCC Tools for training in the villages.
- ✓ Sanitation facilities in school including quality of toilets, handwashing station, connectivity and availability of water, soap, O&M system and overall condition of school toilets need to be improved
- ✓ Water Supply Schemes: Lack of testing of the quality of water, lack of water purification system
- ✓ SHG: lack of capacity of SHG members for 4 modules and the technical training of SHG members before starting the income generation activities.
- ✓ Lack of training of production group for the management and technical aspects, coordination with the DTEAP for strengthening the capacity of the production group.
- ✓ CCT: Lack of training, delay in delivery of CCT funds at the village level.

All the above issues already suggested by the MPI that each project can follow up and improve and also for PRF would consider what the issue finding from this village score card study that would be used to improve the future implementation of the PRF as well as for the CLEAR project.

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Annex 1: Accumulated data of Result frameworks

		Cumulative Targets Values					End Target YR9 (June 2024)
Indicator Name Project Development Objectives (PDO)	Baseline (2019)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<i>Direct project beneficiaries (Number)-(Core)</i> <i>Comment: The mission discussed and emphasized the need to account for beneficiaries only when they are receiving the benefits of the project. For example, beneficiaries of sub-projects can only be accounted for when the infrastructure is completed and functional (beneficiaries cannot be accounted for at design stage). It was discussed earlier and need to be implemented consistently. It is essential to reflect the reality in the field.</i>	567,762	690,000					876,700 This proposed at 950,000 as the final year of AF
Actual		866,771	887,138 ^[1]	889,302 ^[2]	906,803		
<i>Female beneficiaries (Percentage)</i> <i>Same comment as above.</i>	53	50	50	50	50		50
Actual		49.46	49.00	49.00	49.10		
<i>Ethnic Beneficiaries (Percentage)</i> <i>Same comment as above.</i>	70	70	70	70	70		70
Actual		82.91	85.00	85.10	84.90		
<i>% reduction in travel time from village center to kumban center due to road improvements</i> <i>Comment: This indicator won't be tracked anymore as the additional financing will focus on roads linking agricultural production areas to villages. In the restructured results framework, it will be replaced by the indicator: % reduction in travel time from agricultural production areas to villages' centers due to road improvements (Percentage). No roads linking agricultural production areas to villages' centers so far has been completed under the additional financing. The mission also discussed and emphasized the need to only report on this indicator when the road is completed and functional.</i>	-		40				40
Actual		46.38	51.70	52.30	51.9		
<i>Percentage increase in children 6-23 months old from Farmer Nutrition Group households consuming foods from four or more recommended food groups</i> <i>Comment: This indicator will be captured by nutrition convergence survey, which is under preparation.</i>	37.5%			-	-		40

Actual				-	-		
Kilograms of animal meat produced (Number)	-		527,219	2,108,877	5,454,540		5,454,540
Actual		312,360 ^[3]		779,020	1,800,840		

Indicator Name	Baseline	Intermediate Targets					End Target
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
% of total project value contributed by the community (Percentage)	11	10					Not reported during the PRF extension and AF period
Actual		7.52	7.37	7.34	7.59		
% of sub-project activities of high technical quality (Percentage) <i>Comments: It was discussed that the result achieved and measured in 2019 should not be reported across other years as it was not measured again and would not reflect the current reality. The World Bank is currently financing a technical audit of infrastructure that will be able to report on this indicator. It will be useful to further take stock from PRF3 infrastructures sub-projects. So, we used result of technical evaluation in 2022 for report 2022, Overall, 50% of the sub-projects were assessed as Good with 43% assessed as Fair and only a small 7% were Poor.</i>	85	85					85
Actual		92			93		
% of PRF built infrastructure in a functioning quality (Percentage) <i>Comments: Technical Assessment and Outcomes Survey in 2022 (funded by World Bank) found that of the 84 sub-projects, only 7 (8%) were not in operable condition. All the road and building sub-projects are 100% in full-use.</i>	80		80				80
Actual		94.98	94.68 ^[4]	94.68	92.00		

Indicator Name	Baseline	Intermediate Targets					End Target
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
# of sub projects implemented (Number)	1,426	2,800					3,440
Actual		3,099	3,334	3,335	3, 561		
% of Village Implementation Team (VIT) members that are female (Percentage)			31	-			40
Actual			33.85	33.80	50.9 ¹		
Number of women selected for Road Maintenance Groups who earn an income, as a % of the number of poor households in the village (Percentage) <i>Comments: The methodology to collect the indicator has been updated in 2021 and is now measured regularly by the PMU. Previously it was supposed to be measured only once by an impact evaluation with the Gender Lab, which ended up not measuring exactly this indicator in 2020. The indicator, and the methodology of collect will be updated with the restructuring of the RF and the target will also be increased significantly. The indicator will be updated to Percentage of women selected for Road Maintenance Groups earning an income out of the number of poor households in targeted villages. There is no financial support in AF, thus, this indicator might not appear.</i>		8	16	-			16
Actual			15.96	20.40	--		
Increase in hectares of irrigated area (Percentage)		0					50
Actual			49.70	48.40	49.32		
% HHs in PRF beneficiary villages voting for village priorities (Percentage)	60	75	75	75	75	75	75
Actual		87.81	91.90	92.7	88.50		

¹ This is new indicator of AF, so we will base only under the PRF III AF's coverage, the implementation of the 173 sub-projects under the PRF III AF, 1,038 VIT members are appointed, out of which 528 are females (50.9%).

Indicator Name	Baseline	Intermediate Targets					End Target
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
% of PRF KBs participating in DSEDP process promoting PRF KBPs and/or VDPs (Percentage)	75	75	75	-	-		75
Actual		80.60	80.60	80.60	-		For PRFIII indicator
% of households in PRF beneficiary villages satisfied with the participatory planning process supported by PRF III (Percentage) <i>Comments The Donor Super Mission in 2021, recommended that the result achieved and measured in 2018- should not be reported across other years as it was not measured again and would not reflect the current reality, thus, it was advised to conduct an independent satisfaction survey of beneficiaries. This will be able to estimate this indicator, and also to identify ways to improve PRF additional financing by looking at satisfaction beyond planning and future implementation of the CLEAR Project. The first draft outcomes of this evaluation should be able to present the draft report during MTR (By the end of February 2023).</i>	75						80
Actual		95.00			--		
% of PRF III sub-project prioritized by women (Percentage)	91.00		90.00				90.00
Actual		93.00	94.90	93.80	93.70		
% of PRF III sub-projects prioritized by ethnic group (Percentage)	70.00		70.00		70.00	70.00	70.00
Actual		84.91	88.00	84.70	83.50		
# of communities able to plan, implement and monitor their activities (Number)	1,124	1,450					1,736
Actual		1,695	1,727 ^[6]	1,732 ^[7]	1,765		
% of registered grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedures (Percentage)	90		90	90	90	90	90

Indicator Name	Baseline	Intermediate Targets					End Target
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Actual		98.97	100.00	100.00	100.00		
# of individuals using loans from SHGs (Number)	4,054				22,000		34,000
Actual		9,962		12,782 ^[8]	20,296		
% of Village Self-Help Group Management Committee (VSMC) members that are female (Percentage)	0.00						65
Actual		63	90.50 ^[9]	80.81	80.00		
Number of Farmer Nutrition Group member households (Number)	0.00		7,200	-	-	-	14,300
Actual			5,313 ^[10]	7,223	9,578		
Percentage of SHG members who take at least two loans (Percentage) <i>Comments: It was also agreed that for the restructuring the target will be lowered as it will be quite difficult to achieve as the number of SHGs who took a first loan has not reached 80%. This indicator was proposed to adjust the final target. Since, the target is too ambitious and was reduced to 30% as discussed and agreed in October 2022</i>	0.00		35.00	35.00	50.00	80.00	80.00
Actual		56.68 ^[11]		--	24.62		

^[1] We use the number 866,771 people in 2019 and we then added the number of 20,367 beneficiaries in 32 new villages that just received sub-projects in 2020

^[2] In 2021 we based on a number of sub-projects funded by GoL 13 billion LAK to implement 53 sub-projects in 53 villages, 21 districts, 6 provinces. There are only 5 new villages that just received support with 2,164 people. For beneficiaries in 2021=887,138 +2164 = 889,302

[3] We use the number of kilograms of animal meat produced in 2019. The number of Kilograms of animal meat produced in 2022 (1,201,494 kgs). We used the numbers of livestock from each type times by average kgs cost.

[4] We follow up on the total number of sub-projects from 2012-2019 with 3,099 sub-projects and there were 165 sub-projects not fully functioning which is 5.3%

[5] Overall, the program works as intended, increasing household welfare during the program. It increases women's earnings and improves household welfare. 18 Another perhaps more important indicator of the impact that was captured by the impact evaluation was the percentage of household regular earners of income. This indicator increased from 2.16% at baseline to 14.4% at the end line.

[6] We use the number of 32 new villages that just received sub-projects in 2020.

[7] Only 5 new villages received sub-project in 2021 in those 6 provinces uncovered by PRFIII AF.

[8] As of November 2021, there are 2,820 new members who took the loan from the Seed grant during the period of PRFIII AF, and the number will be increased when the first loan is allocated to SHG members who requested the first loan (will be updated in the annual report 2021).

[9] This is the data of 3 pilot villages in 2020

[10] In the semi-report 2020, there were 113 FNG members HH in the 3 pilot villages. After the baseline survey was done, 249 FNGs have been set up in 231 villages, 12 districts which included 5,313 FNG member HHs.

[11] We use the number of people taking loans at least two times from SHG in 2019 which is 5,716 members compared to the total of 10,085 members

[12] This data can be updated after first seed grant loan replay and start with new loan.

Annex 2: Responsibility of Village Implementation Team (VIT)

VIT	Roles and responsibilities
VIT 01 (Finance team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep casebook and report expenditure Present financial statement Make payment to contractor and supplier as well as local skill and unskilled workers
VIT 02 (Procurement team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign contract with PRF Prepare bidding documents and award contracts with contractors/suppliers Direct recruitment of skilled/unskilled workers-recruitment guideline
VIT 03 (construction team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support PRF in surveys, designs, and cost estimates Check quality and volumes of supplied materials Supervise works implementation Support the preparation of the Operation and Maintenance Plan Setting out tasks for unskilled workers and verifying completion Check quality and volumes of locally collected materials

Annex 3: Summary of FNG members; and Number of VSMC and Women position (2022)

➤ Table of summary of FNG members 2022

Active FNG members (Batch 1)

Province/District	Active FNG member	No. of HH	1	2	3	4	5	Total of Eligible FNG members (1+2+3)
			# PM	#LM (0-5 m)	#C (6-23 m)	# m of Child (6-23 m)	# C (0-5 m)	
Huaphanh	2,949	1,577	317	335	998	962	337	1,650
Huameuang	1,084	623	140	128	343	342	131	611
Kuane	506	260	52	60	175	161	58	287
Sone	264	143	21	24	97	97	25	142
Xamtay	1,095	551	104	123	383	362	123	610
Oudomxay	1,010	569	141	74	358	359	78	573
La	190	103	20	17	69	67	17	106
Namor	820	466	121	57	289	292	61	467
Phongsaly	2,652	1,465	358	248	902	896	248	1,508
Boontai	496	292	101	25	173	172	25	299
Khua	720	400	109	58	250	245	58	417
May	895	480	70	110	302	302	111	482
Samphanh	541	293	78	55	177	177	54	310
Xiengkhuang	2,815	1,649	533	253	901	873	255	1,687
Kham	1,235	707	217	120	394	383	121	731
Nonghed	1,580	942	316	133	507	490	134	956
Grand Total	9,426	5,260	1,349	910	3,159	3,090	918	5,418

Remarks: PW = Pregnant women; LM = Lactating mother; HH = Households; C = Children

Active FNG members (Batch 2)

Province/District	Active FNG member	No. of HH	1	2	3	4	5	Total of Eligible FNG members (1+2+3)
			# PM	#LM (0-5 m)	#C (6-23 m)	# m of Child (6-23 m)	# C (0-5 m)	
Huaphanh	3,100	1,718	431	347	1,031	942	349	1,809
Huameuang	628	360	94	75	191	190	78	360
Kuane	1,123	610	149	105	404	361	104	658
Sone	22	14	6	1	7	7	1	14
Xamtay	1,327	734	182	166	429	384	166	777
Oudomxay	1,571	924	237	163	506	504	161	906
La	261	145	29	19	97	97	19	145
Namor	1,310	779	208	144	409	407	142	761
Phongsaly	1,938	1,051	203	177	692	690	176	1,072
Boontai	646	341	60	60	234	233	59	354
Khua	658	363	68	56	239	239	56	363
May	634	347	75	61	219	218	61	355
Samphanh	812	464	134	83	261	248	86	478
Xiengkhuang	812	464	134	83	261	248	86	478
Kham	7,421	4,157	1,005	770	2,490	2,384	772	4,265
Nonghed	3,100	1,718	431	347	1,031	942	349	1,809
Grand Total	628	360	94	75	191	190	78	360

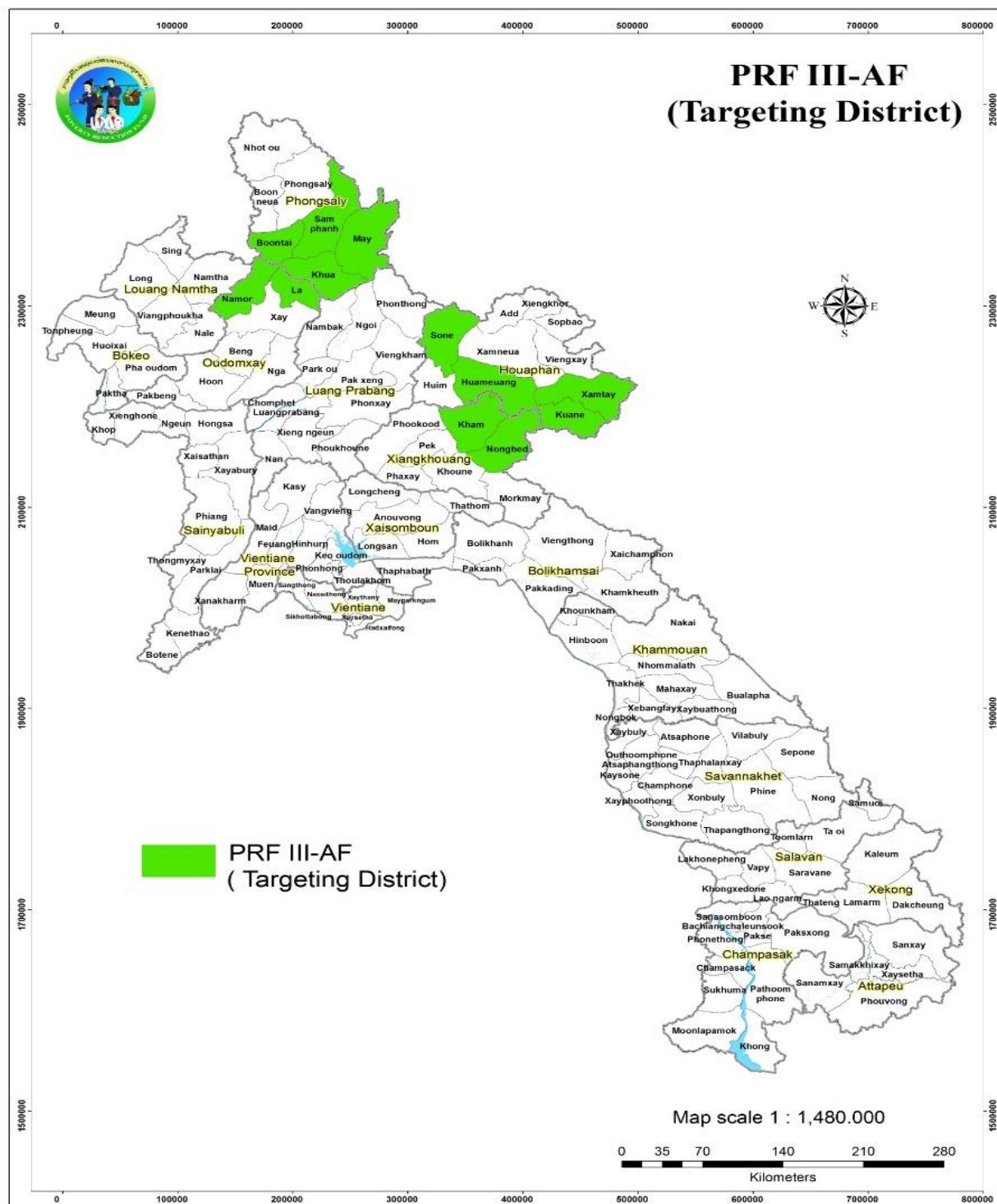
Remarks: PW = Pregnant women; LM = Lactating mother; HH = Households; C = Children

➤ **Table of Number of VSMC and Women Position**

Provinces/Districts	Sum of #Vill	Sum of #VSMC	Sum of #Female VSMC	Percent (%)
Huaphanh	64	408	324	79.41%
Huameuang	22	131	111	84.73%
Kuane	15	104	49	47.12%
Sone	4	26	18	69.23%
Xamtay	23	147	146	99.32%
Oudomxay	19	114	113	99.12%
La	5	30	30	100.00%
Namor	14	84	83	98.81%
Phongsaly	81	478	361	75.52%
Boontai	15	88	43	48.86%
Khua	27	163	162	99.39%
May	24	145	74	51.03%
Samphanh	15	82	82	100.00%
Xiengkhuang	65	355	285	80.28%
Kham	29	145	141	97.24%
Nonghed	36	210	144	68.57%
Grand Total	229	1,355	1,083	79.93%

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, PRF

Annex 4: PRF III AF (12 Target Districts, 4 Provinces)



Annex 5: Summary of staff training conducted during the Reporting Period

Number of staff trained classified by Divisions (2020-2022)

Division (PRF)	# Participants	# female	# ethnic
Agricultural Livelihood	16,785	11,167	11,567
Finance and Administration	31	21	28
Monitoring and Evaluation	8,667	6,150	2,630
Nutrition and Community Development	10,281	7,107	6,756
Project Management Team	4,253	3,235	2,545
Engineer	1,096	506	552
Grand Total	41,113	28,186	24,078




Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, PRF








Annex 6: Staff turnover and new recruitment during the reporting period







Number of PRF III_AF IDA Fund Staff				Ethnic Group		
Level	Total staff	Male	Female	Total	Female	% by level
Centre level	25	20	5	2	0	8.00
Provincial level	4	4	0	1	0	25.00
District level	40	28	12	8	1	20.00
Village level	130	63	67	65	29	50.00
Total	199	115	84	76	30	38.19
Percentage	100%	57.79	42.21	38.19	39.47	



Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, PRF

Annex 7: The List of Crops to be promoted to plant in Home Nutrition Garden

No	Name	Activity	Pictures	Nutrition values
1	Choysum	Garden		Easy to grow. Easy to produce. Short planning period. 2 tablespoons of mustard leaf will provide approximately 12% of the RDA of Vit A and approximately 50% of Vit C for children under 2 years of age
2	Morning glory	Garden		Very soft leaves after steaming with neutral taste. Ideal for IYCF. Rich in Vit A C and iron. 2 to 3 tablespoons would provide approximately 40% of the RDA of Vit A, 46% of Vit C and 17% of Iron for children under 2 years of age
3	Bush bean	Garden		Good to give as first finger foods at about 10months. Good to as snack for mothers. Easy to prepare if steamed on top of sticky rice in basket.

4	Wing bean	Garden		Rich in protein, iron and calcium. You can steam and make a salad out of it. Good snack for 1,000 day women
5	Acacia	Along fence planting		Rich in protein and iron and protein. Protein content is unusual high. No smell if eaten tender leaves
6	Moringa	Along fence planting		A true powerhouse of nutrients. Rich in protein, Vit A, C, iron and calcium. Can also dry and grind leave into powder (so you can store for 1-2 moths). 2 to 3 <i>tablespoons would provide approximately 80% of Vit C, 37% of calcium, 25% of iron and 75% of protein of for a child under 2 years of age.</i>
7	Mulberry	Along fence planting		Fruits are rich in Vit C and iron, it also has many other nutrients which are good to boost your immune system and fight infections. You can dry the leaves and make a tea from it. It is a good refreshment when you are tired. Mulberry leaves are also good to feed to your livestock (check which species)
8	Rosela	Along fence planting		Can eat flower (calyces) and leaves. Leaves eaten cooked. Flowers can make tea, blend fresh into juices or boil for jams. Use in fish soup or any other soup for sour taste (kaeng som) – alternative to mak kham. Leaves rich in calcium and Vit A, iron, Vit C. Both flower and leaves rich in antioxidants which helps to protect from diseases
9	Ivy gourd	Along fence planting		Easy and fast to grow. Rich in Vit A and C. 2 to 3 tablespoons would provide approximately 40% of the RDA of Vitamin A, 40% of Vitamin C for children 6 months to 5 years of age
10	Passion fruit	Along fence planting		Can be stored well. Easy to grow. Grows fast. 2 tablespoons of passionfruit would provide 50% of the RDA of Vitamin A, 80% of Vitamin C and 15% of iron for children under 2 years of age.

11	Black sesame	multi plantation		<p>Rich in calcium and iron. Ideal for grinding into the pre-mix to increase nutrient density. Good smell and taste if roasted.</p> <p><i>It provides approximately 1/3 of energy required for an infant between 6 to 11 months, 1/4 of the energy required for a child aged 1 to 2 years. It provides 20 to 30% of the RDA of calcium for children under 2 years, and a substantial portion of the required protein.</i></p>
12	Sweet potato	multi plantation		<p>Can eat the leaves and the roots. Both are rich in Vit A and easy to digest, ideal for start feeding a 6month old infant. Can mash up with mortar and pestle, add milk, or oil, sprinkle with fish powder.</p>
13	Yacon	multi plantation		<p>A ripe yacon has beautiful sweet flavor and you can eat it like a fruit. The sweetness of the root is not like from normal sugar, it is a special component which is not only tasty and sweet, but also helps to keep your gut healthy. It helps to create an environment in the gut in which good bacteria like to thrive. Eating yacon root is much better than buying processed sweets for your children.</p>
14	Mungbean	multi plantation		<p>Mung bean do not create bloating so ideal for IYCF and usage in premix. Good smell and taste if roasted. Good source of protein, iron and vit B1. 2 tablespoons will provide 25% of the RDA of iron, nearly 100% of Vit B1, and nearly 60% of the protein requirements of an infant, and 50% of B1 for a child under 2 years.</p>
15	Pumkin	multi plantation		<p>Can eat the leaves, the fruit, the flowers and the seeds. Roasted seeds have a lot of zinc (which is rare to find in plant food). Fruits are very good to digest for infants and rich in Vit A. Grows easily.</p> <p><i>2 tablespoons will provide 70 to 80% of the RDA of Vit A for children under 2 years of age. The same quantity of pumpkin leaves can give 10% of the RDA of iron for a child under 2 years.</i></p>
16	Asiatic pennywort	can be planted in a jar		<p>The leaves can be eaten raw or cooked. Rich in iron, Vit A, calcium, Vit C. The leave has a shape of a brain, so you can remember it is good for child's memory and it improves cognitive performance.</p> <p>Safe to be eaten every day. Good for pregnant women.</p>

17	Ceylone spinach	can be planted in a jar		Rich in Vit A, C and iron. Grows very fast. ½ cup would provide approximately 30% of the RDA of Vitamin A, 30% of Vitamin C and 5% of Iron for children under 1 year of age.
18	Amaranth	can be planted in a jar		Rich in Vit A, C and iron. Grows very fast. <i>3 to 4 tablespoons of cooked amaranth provide a child under 5 years with 40% of the RDA of Vitamin A, 60% of Vitamin C and 15% of iron.</i>

Annex 8: Gender mainstreaming in PRF III (2017-2022)

No.	Description	Target	Result 2017	Result 2018	Result 2019	Result 2020	2021	2022	Source of data
1	Female Beneficiaries	50%	50.00%	49.40%	49.00%	49.20%	49.00%	49.10%	MIS
2	Female Ethnic Beneficiaries	50%	50.00%	49.20%	49.10%	49.20%	49.00%	50.00%	MIS
3	Ethnic Beneficiaries	70%	84.00%	80.10%	83.90%	88.20%	88.00%	87.40%	MIS
4	Percent of women Kum ban facilitators (2 women in total 3 members)	60%	56.00%	60.50%	60.00%	60.30%	87.30%	No KB	CD/ME
5	Percent of Ethnic Kum ban facilitators	-	58.50%	61.90%	55.10%	93.60%	53.00%	No KB	CD
6	Percent of female members in village implementation committee VIT)	-	33.60%	31.00%	36.00%	32.90%	33.80%	50.69%	ME/MIS
7	Percent of female participated village development plan (VDP)	-	54.10%	55%	56%	57%	54%	50%	ME
8	Sub projects prioritized by ethnic group	70%	81.00%	85.00%	86.00%	90.00%	87.00%	83.50%	MIS
9	Percent of sub projects prioritized by poor villages already funded	60%	88.00%	85.00%	85.00%	90%	90%	88.44%	MIS
10	Sub-projects prioritized by women already funded	-	25.00%	11.00%	6.70%	2.90%	1.89%	13.87%	MIS
11	Sub-projects prioritized by both men and women already funded	90%	92.00%	92.00%	95.00%	94.90%	98%	93.70%	MIS
12	Percent of SHG member are women	80%	85.50%	86.30%	87.20%	93%	90%	92.29%	MIS/LN
13	Percent of women members who received loans from SHG seed funds	60%	84.10%	80.40%	74.70%	90%	93.50%	94.00%	LN/MIS
14	Percent of Poorer HH who received loans from SHG seed funds	60%	93.80%	90.00%	80.00%	80%	56.40%	56.37%	LN/MIS
15	Percent of women members in SHG committee (VSMC)	60%	54.60%	64.00%	63.50%	90%	81%	81%	LN

16	Percent of women benefit in pilot of RMG	100%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Pending	TA/ME
17	Percent of PRF Female staffs	30	28.50%	29.00%	29.50%	38.08%	44.24%	43.72%	HR
18	Percent of PRF ethnic staffs	-	23.20%	17.70%	21.60%	23.13%	26.73%	38.30%	HR

Source: Monitoring and Evaluation Division, PRF

Annex 9: The Detailed Annual Work Plan of all Divisions and Units 2022

Component	Activity	Responsible by Central PRF Office	Year 2022											
			Qt1			Qt2			Qt3			Qt4		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.	PRF III AF's Implementing Stages													
I	Continue implementing planned activities in existed 231 Target Villages		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
II	Newly entering into 2nd Batch of 234 Target Villages									x	x	x	x	x
II	Newly entering into 2nd Batch of 234 Target Villages									X	X	X	X	X
2.1	Preparation Stage													
2	Recruitment of new YGs (20 Livelihoods and 10 Nutritions)													
2.1.1	Revise TOR	PMT		x										
2.1.2	Recruitment process	HR/FA/LIV E/NCD			x	x								
2.1.3	Contract sign	HR					x							
2.1.4	New staff orientation	LIVE & NCD						x	x					
4.1.1.1	Books of Records for Self Help Groups (SHGs) Individual pass books, Minute book & Cash book to each SHG for 2000 SHGs	LIVE/Proc		X	X									
4.1.1.2	Books of Record for Village SHG Management Committees (VSMCs) Minute book & Ca+B104sh book to each VSMC for 465 VSMCs	LIVE/Proc		X	X									
4.1.1.3	Books of Record for Producers' Groups (PGs) Minute book, Stock book, Transaction book to each PG for 100 PGs	LIVE/Proc		X	X									
4.1.2.1	IEC Materials for SHG training Posters, Leaflets, etc. on 4 module trainings of SHG will be developed, printed, circulated to each villages.	LIVE/Proc			X	X								
4.1.2.2	IEC Materials for SHG members on Farm, Livestock & Non-Farm trainings Posters, Leaflets, etc. on different farm based and livestock based activities will be developed, printed, circulated to each villages.	LIVE/Proc			X	X								
2.1.10	IEC materials support Environmental and social safeguards activities	NCD				X	X	X						

4.2.3.6	Tablets for L&N YG	Procurement					X	X								
4.2.3.7	Motobike for NUT YG	Procurement					X	X								
4.2.1.2	Mills (including shipping) and extension cords	Procurement					X	X	X							
4.2.1.3	Cooking set (including sheets for drying rice, boxes, etc)	Procurement					X	X	X							
4.2.1.4	Tarpaulin	Procurement					X	X	X							
4.2.3.1	Microphone for video production	Procurement						X	X							
4.2.3.3	Mobile phone with instaprojector and SIM card	Procurement						X	X							
4.2.3.3	Speakers	Procurement						X	X							
4.2.2.10	M&E materials (e.g. farm visit sheet) number of FNG members	NCD						X	X							
4.2.2.11	Records books	NCD/Pro						X	X							
4.1.1.4	Inputs to SHGs Floor Mats to each SHG for 1170 SHGs	LIVE/Proc							x	x						
4.1.1.5	Inputs to VSMCs Box with Lock & Key to each VSMC for new 234 VSMCs	LIVE/Proc							x	x						
	PRFCapacity Building (CB) - Training for 20 new Staff															
4.1.3.1	Training on SHGs 5 days residential training on 4 modules training of SHG to New LYGs, 10 poor of understanding the 4 modules staff	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.2	Training on VSMCs 4 days residential training on 3 modules training of VSMC	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.3	Training on PGs 5 days residential training on 4 modules training of SHG to new LYG	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.4	Training on Livelihood (Livestock) 8 days residential training & refresher training on (Pig, Goat, Chicken, Duck, etc. raising)	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.5	Training on Livelihood (Livestock Support Services) 5 days residential training & refresher training on (Housing, Feeding, Vaccination, Disease Control, etc.)	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.6	Training on Livelihood (Farm) 8 days residential training & refresher training on (Sustainable Agriculture i.e., SRI, DSR, LT, Organic Farming, Vegetable Cultivation, Corn Production, etc.)	Livelihood							x	x						
4.1.3.7	Training on Livelihood (Non-Farm & Handicraft) 5 days residential training & refresher training on (Non-Farm & Handicraft based livelihoods etc.)	Livelihood							x	x						

1.2.12	Training on VDP for district concerned sectors & YG	NCD							X	X						
2.1.05	Training on Environmental and social safeguards	NCD							X	X						

1.2.02	Village Orientation Meeting and FNG formation	NCD										X	X		
4.1.2	Capacity Building (Start forming SHG and VSMC) in 234 Villages											X	X	X	
2.2	Planning Stage														
1.2.03	Village Development Plan meeting	NCD											X	X	X
1.2.04	District Planning & Coordination Meeting	NCD												X	X
1.2.09	VIT Training on Implementation+Community training on Social Safeguard + FRM	NCD													X
1.2.05	Sub-project survey and design the remaining projects (361- 224 = 137 projectss)													X	X
1.2.06	Village Confirmation+Kick off meeting													X	X
1.2.07	VIT training on Finance and Procurement +FRM	FA and Proc./TA													X
1.2.08	Sub-project bidding (CFA Procedure)	Proc./TA													X
1.2.09	VIT training on Implementation + Community training on ESS+FRM														X
???	Printing of implementation guideline of CFA,RMG, before implementation and Operation and Maintenance	TA													
1.2.10	VIT training on Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	TA													X
3.1	Supporting Services (Staff performance review and renew contract)	F&A													
3.2	Equipments (procurement process)	F&A/Pro													
3.3	Works (office maintenance)	F&A/Pro													
3.4	Incremental Operating Costs	F&A													
	IFR prepration and submit to the donnors	F&A													
	-External Audit Firm	F&A													
	- PRF Board Meeting	PMT													
3.6	Manage grievance redress system														
3.7	Nutrition Convergence Ptoqram Meeting														
3.8	PRF Board Committee Meeting														
2.3	Implementing Stage														
4.1.2	Capacity Building (CB) - Community Training	LIVE/Proc													
4.1.2.11	Training of VSMC members on Module 1 : Objective of VSMC, VSMC Module 1 training will be conducted for 16 persons/village by Young Graduate in 465 Villages	Livelihood											X	X	X

[illegible]

4.2.2.8	Training on HNG for FNG members trained by model farmers which assistant by DAFO & NYG	NCD													X	
4.2.2.12	Home Nutrition Grarden Support (Direct Contract to LFN)	LFN											X			
4.2.2.13	Seedling Production Fund for home nutrition garden	NCD											X			
4.2.3	Multi-media peer learning															
4.2.3.4	VDO training for the village VDO committee	NCD								X	X					
4.2.3.5	Multi-media Peer Learning Support contract, 4 years (Direct contract, CLICK)	CLICK									X	X	X	X		
4.2.3.6	Phone credit (one time)	NCD								X						
2.4	Monitoring Stage															
4.2.4	Backstopping by MAF, MOH and DAFO/DHO and Quarterly Monitoring															
4.2.4.1	Transport, per diem & hotel for MOH staff for field visits Technical guidance (2 person every 6 months)	NCD						X								X
4.2.4.2	Transport and per diem for DHO staff Technical guidance	NCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2.4.3	District NUT Coordinator 12 dist Coordinator *15 days*48 months will spend visit to to villages under their responsibilities	NCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2.4.4	NYG at Kumban Level 45 YG*16 days*12 months & NYG at Kumban Level 25 YG*16 days*4 months	NCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2.4.5	NCD staff	NCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.5	Quarterly Monitoring															
4.1.5.1	District PRF-Livelihood Coordinator 10 dist Coordinator *10 days*12 months will spend visit to to villages under their responsibilities	Livelihood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.1.5.2	YG at Kumban Level 55 YG*15 days*12 months and 20 Ygs*15days*8moths	Livelihood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.1.5.4	Transport, per diem & accommodation for MAF+others staff for field visits MAF's Representative will spend supervisory visits 2 times per year	Livelihood	x			x			x				x			x

Annex 10: Updated Information on the Livelihood activities 2022

Sl. No.	Indicator (Or Activity)	Target till FY 21	Achievement till December 22	Progress Percentage
1	Number of Villages Entered	231	229	99.13%
2	Number of poor households mobilized to form SHGs	11550	7,009	60.68%
3	Number of women SHG members	NA	11,182	92.06%

4	Number of SHGs formed	1155	972	84.16%
5	Number of SHGs started Saving	NA	972	-
6	Number of SHGs eligible for inter-lending of saving fund	970	pending	-
7	Number of SHGs completed Module 1 training	NA	972	-
8	Number of SHGs completed Module 2 training	NA	972	-
9	Number of SHGs completed Module 3 training	NA	972	-
10	Number of SHGs completed Module 4 training	NA	972	-
11	Number of VSMC formed	231	229	99.13%
12	Number of SHG members part of VSMC	NA	1,355	-
13	Total women members part of VSMC	NA	1,083	-
14	Number of VSMC opened Bank Account	231	229	99.13%
15	Number of VSMCs completed Module 1 training	NA	1,355	-
16	Number of VSMCs completed Module 2 training	NA	1,355	-
17	Number of VSMCs completed Module 3 training	NA	1,355	-
18	Number of SHGs eligible for FIP, MIP, & SHG Assessment	1,155	972	84.16%
19	Number of SHGs completed FIP	1,155	972	84.16%
20	Number of SHGs completed MIP	1,155	972	84.16%
21	Number of SHGs completed SHG Assessment	1,155	972	84.16%
22	Number of SHGs received Seed Grant	1,155	972	84.16%
23	Number of SHG members received Seed Grant	11,605	8,020	69.11%
24	Amount (US\$) of Seed Grant disbursed	1,300,000	1,226,521	6.92%
25	Amount of Saving mobilized in US\$	NA	111,984	
26	Amount of inter-lending in US\$	NA	121,574	-
27	Credit Deposit Ratio	2	0.69	0.345
28	Amount of repayment in US\$ (Loans from saving)	NA	-	
29	Number PGs formed	50	29	0.58
30	Number of SHG members mobilized into PG	280	297	106%
31	How many types of Income Generation Activities taken up from seed grant of US\$ 1.3 million (6,601 loans)	NA	12	0.15%
32	Out of 6,601, How many members into Chicken Raising	NA	1916	21.76%
33	Out of 6,601, How many members into Pig Raising	NA	4235	43.99%
34	Out of 6,601, How many members into Goat Raising	NA	722	8.95%
35	Out of 6,601,How many members into Corn Production	NA	573	
36	Out of 6,601, How many members into Handicraft	NA	911	7.09%
37	Out of 6,601, How many members into Broom grass planting	NA	4	0.05%
38	Out of 6,601, How many members into Silk Worm	NA	pending	
39	Out of 6,601,How many members into Duck raising	NA	530	6.61%
40	Out of 6,601,How many members into Fish farming	NA	214	2.67%
41	Out of 6,601,How many members into Frog farming	NA	pending	
42	Out of 6,601,How many members into Cassava Production	NA	7	0.09%
43	Out of 6,601,How many members into Banana Production	NA	2	0.02%
44	Out of 6,601,, How many members into Growing (ginger, corn, vegetable, cassava, mushroom, fruit, galangal)	NA	669	8.34%

45	Out of 6,601, How many members into Pretty Trade	NA	190	2.37%
46	Out of 6,601,How many members into Any other (specify)	NA	pending	

In addition, **there is one indicator** that PRF expected to get from the mid-term and the final evaluation of the Governance Program “Percentage increase in children 6-23 months old from Farmer Nutrition Group households consuming foods from four or more recommended food groups (Percentage)”. When the mid-term evaluation of Convergence programme will be completed, PRF would get data to use for this indicator. This required to cooperate with MPI who is the key for the mid-term evaluation.

4.4.3. PRF Administrative Board and Government Sector

Under the strong leadership of the new chairman of the PRF Board, the 25th PRF Board Meeting was held on April 22, 2022 in Vientiane capital, chaired by H.E Ph.D. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the Chairman of the Board of the Poverty Reduction Fund, the participants of the PRF’s board members from the Ministries, the Deputy Governors in the target provinces of the project, representatives from the NGOs, the central committee in charge of the project, joined together. Special representatives from the World Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) attended the online meeting, attended by a total of 52 participants and 15 women. Throughout the discussion and exchanges of comments, the meeting has agreed following points:

- Agreed to approve the closure of PRF in 6 provinces (LuangNamtha, LuangPrabang, Savannakhet, Saravan, Sekong, and Attapeu), and assigned the local authorities to continue to monitor and support the work in the future.
- Agreed to approve the report on the implementation progress of the PRF work in 4 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, XiengKhouang, and Houaphanh) in the first batch of 231 villages from 2020 to 2022, and approved the implementation plan in the second batch of 234 villages with the operation period from the end of 2022 to December 2023.
- Agreed on a proposal for the Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience Project (**CLEAR**), with the goal of helping rural people by improving their livelihoods and promoting nutrition along with improving access to infrastructure by empowering communities to implement by themselves, and building capacity for them to adapt themselves with climate change.
- Approved the role of the PRF, which aims to serve the current political role in contributing to rural development and poverty alleviation; and in accordance with the new role of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 603 / PM, dated 15 October 2021. And also suggested to improve the coordination between PRF and concerned sectors at different levels.

Way forward with the following action plans:

- ✓ Organize meetings to close the PRF office and hand over sub-projects to provincial authorities in 6 provinces (Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Saravan, Sekong, and Attapeu) that had been done in May 2022 that PRF handed over activities to local authority at dsitric and provincial level to support the work after PRF (This had been done all works in May 2022).
- ✓ Prepare for the implementation of the PRF III AF in the 2nd batch of 234 villages (updated 237 villages) in 4 provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Houaphanh, Xieng Khouang) which had been done by June and planed to start in August 2022 (PRF started activities in August 2022 for village orientation and SHG formed).
- ✓ Coordinate with the World Bank team to prepare for the Community Livelihood Enhancement and Resilience Project (CLEAR) and coordinate with concerned stakeholders to compile and

collect poverty data to select target provinces and districts (Discused with World Bank in December 2022 to be agreed on provincial targeting: Phongsaly, Oudomxay,).

- ✓ Prepare for the 26th PRF Board Meeting, which is expected to be held by the end of 2022 as suggested by the chairman (This planned to organize by the end of February 2023).

CHAPTER V: PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET 2023-2024

In the second half of PRFIIAF (2023-2024), PRF will focus to implement the work in 2nd Batch village, by utilizing lessons learnt from the 1st batch, and ensure high benefit to community. In the 2nd Batch village at least 234 villages, including the component 1 : village planning, survey design, social and environmental safeguards, disaster risk management, sub-project construction, and operation and maintenance, Component 2: Focus on the capacity building for local authority and community, to ensure that they can manage and handle the work after project closure; Component 3: Will focus on project management, financial allocation, project outcome monitoring and evaluation, grievances that are addressed according to agreed procedure; and Component 4: Livelihood and Nutrition, new SHG and PGs forming, behavior change for nutrition, as detail in work plan for each division and unit:

- ✓ PRF continues coordinating with all convergence projects, particularly, the MIS data sharing, planning integration, SBCC, etc. through the meeting and joining working at national, provincial, and district levels. Including the key area to further harmonize interventions at the community level, which is the alignment of communication and behavior change managed between PRF and other convergence projects.
- ✓ The outcome evaluation of the PRFII AF that would provide lesson learn for CLEAR.
- ✓ Project outcomes evaluation that would be used for ICR that would be useful for the new project.

Different tasks that project management team from different division and unit has to do, as highlight below:

5.1. Finance and Administration Plan

- VIT training on Finance and Procurement to communities and district staff for 2nd batch.
- PRF staff refresher training Provincial and District FA & Micro finance.
- Supporting Services (Staff performance review and renew contract).
- Equipment (procurement process).
- Works (office maintenance).
- Preparation report of the Annual budget and expenditure progress and variance of 2022.
- Submission of Interim unaudited financial report (IFR) for the period (Jan – Mar 2023) to the donors (WB) by May 15, 2023, period (April – June 2023) to the donors (WB) by Jul 15, 2023; period (Jul – Sept 2023) to the donors (WB) by Nov 15, 2023; and period (Oct – Dec 2023) to the donors (WB) by Feb 15, 2024;
- PRF FA at the central level plans to complete transfer 1st installment of CFA sub-project during June 2023.
- Preparation of Annual budget and work plan of FY2023-2024.
- Preparation the PRFII AF replenishment document for IDA 6506
- Preparation Financial statement and supporting documents for External audit and FY2022 and FY2023 for PRFII + PRFII AF, SDC funding.
- PRF FA/FM central office supervision to the target area twice a year.
- Preparation of PRF Board meeting.
- Preparation of CLEAR Project.

5.2. Procurement and Human Resource

- ✓ Conduct the procurement process for cooking book printing as listed in the procurement plan;

- ✓ Continue to revise the Project Procurement Strategy Development (PPSD) under the CLEAR project.

5.3. Human Resource

- ✓ Following the performance of staff working in 4 AF provinces.
- ✓ Staff performance evaluation and capacity building support.

5.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- ✓ Follow up the progress of the technical evaluation, community satisfactory evaluation, and other evaluation before MTR.
- ✓ Continue to provide M&E training for the PRF staff at national, provincial, & district levels including YGs, including M&E TOT training (on M&E work and Reporting).
- ✓ Ensure that all key data of AF's activities are entered into the system can report on time that strong requirement for ICR. Including the impact assessment (both inhouse and external evaluation).
- ✓ Continue monitoring the MIS system with PRF staff at provincial, district, and village levels to ensure all data entry is properly correct and informative in the system and other people can access it easily.
- ✓ Work closely with the M&E focal point persons for M&E issues coordination in the PRF and provide refresh training for them in March 2023 (After MTR).
- ✓ Follow up the implementation and the status of sub-project at district with their outcomes with concerned sectors in the 4 provinces to update some indicators.
- ✓ Continue to provide training on the FRM, including the assessment on FRM tool, data grievances to enter to the system, and report writing on the feedback.
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation the outcome of Capacity Building /Training/ workshop/ Convergence meeting, by working with the capacity building officer and concerned staff.
- ✓ Prepare document and data that would be used for ICR of PRFIIAF.
- ✓ **For CLEAR:**
 - Support key data for the preparation of CLEAR and other tasks, Results frameworks,
 - Working with M&E consultant to support the M&E manual for CLEAR.
 - Propose for the dataset/form that would use for the MIS development for CLEAR.

5.5. Agriculture and Livelihood work

- ✓ **For the Livelihood:** Continue following the progress of work in the 1st batch village together with supporting activities in 2nd batch village.
- ✓ To set up the PGs to reach the target of 100 PGs as the final target of the project, with performance progress evaluation that would be useful for CLEAR.
- ✓ Orientation on Livelihood Activities to at least 234 Villages and mobilize to establish SHG
- ✓ Form SHG in at least 234 villages with mobilization of VSMC
- ✓ Capacity Building on 4 modules to SHG and VSMC
- ✓ Opening Bank Accounts for at least 234 Villages
- ✓ Follow up the Seed Grants Provision to at least 234 Villages

5.6. Nutrition and Community Development plan

- ✓ In the 1st village continue following up the activities related to behavior change through cooking session, home garden visiting, and video watching.
- ✓ Supporting the village development plan in the 2nd batch village
- ✓ For the 2nd batch village will focus on the activities under FNGs based on lessons learnt from the first half of the project.
- ✓ Continue conducting the SBCC meetings and FNG's food cooking demonstrations 2 times per month for the 1st batch of target villages.
- ✓ Continue the activity of FNGs' Home Visit in the 1st and 2nd batch village
- ✓ Review the Nutrition manual, guidelines, IEC tool, material, and equipment for the batch 2 villages
- ✓ Develop and procure all manuals, guidelines, IEC tools, materials, and equipment for Batch 2 villages
- ✓ Conduct the new training/refresher training on basic nutrition, new recipe, and nutrition implementation in batch 2 village for old and new nutrition staff in August 2022.
- ✓ Coordinate with LFN to conduct the training on HNG, and Organize the village development plan for the batch 2 villages between January – February 2023
- ✓ Provide training on FRM for the 2nd Batch villages
- ✓ Disseminate the new recipes in local languages via MMPL for peer- learning promoting the new recipes/food processing developed
- ✓ Identify the technical needs of field teams and provide refresher training (or sessions) during monthly or quarterly meetings to systematically increase the nutrition capacity for PRF district staff and NYGs
- ✓ Increase intensity of HNG support: Review of TA delivery needed (together with the upcoming training report from the Lao Farmer Network) and renew a contract with the Lao Farmer Network for supervision and do more timely HNG monitoring in order to encourage garden practices when needed (e.g., before dry season)
- ✓ Reviews the NYG schedule and tasks and identify opportunities to reduce their workload so that they have time to reflect on the activities and potentially provide troubleshooting if needed

5.7. Community Engineering and community development

Since all villages in 2nd batch will get at least one sub-project with the village in the 1st batch (58 villages) that will also get one sub-projects, so in second half of AF, the team will focus on survey design in 296 villages = 237 + 58 villages.

- ✓ Planning for the survey and design in 2nd batch village.
- ✓ VIT training on SP implementation in second batch village.
- ✓ Providing training on DRM and EMS, including the FRM system.
- ✓ Organize the technical training for CAF labours (at occupation school), who will do construction work at the CFA constructed sub-projects.
- ✓ Follow up and support the construction work in 295 villages.
- ✓ Operation and maintenance training.

Annexes 1-11